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Will Port Vale boss John Rudge and coach Mike Pejic be celebrating another FA Cup upset on Saturday?

VALE OF CHEERS

EXCLUSIVE



JOSIMAR
talks
to us



Port Vale hero Phil Sproson

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STORIES

I SHOULD BE A FIRST DIVISION STAR



Heroes of the hour. Vale's goalscorers Sproson and Ray Walker are jubilant after their giantkilling act.

If Terry Venables is looking for someone to blame for Tottenham's humiliating Cup exit at Port Vale he could do worse than nominate former Stoke manager Richie Barker.

Because, in 1983, Barker talked Vale centre-back Phil Sproson into breaking with a family tradition to move across the Potteries to join Stoke, then of the First Division.

"There had been speculation for ages that I was the man they wanted to replace former England international Dave Watson in their defence," recalls Sproson, whose decisive goal in Vale's 2-1 win over Spurs last month set up Saturday's encounter with Watford.

"Apparently Richie Barker had told some of his players he wanted to buy me and I thought it was signed, sealed and delivered when he took me out to lunch to talk over the move.

"By the end of the afternoon we had shaken hands on the transfer and I couldn't wait to get home to tell my family the good news.

Then, at half past nine that same evening, I got a phone call from Richie telling me he'd signed Coventry's Paul Dyson instead.

"I was bitterly disappointed and it took me ages to get over the blow."

Record

That was the nearest anyone had got to parting a Sproson with Port Vale. Brentford and Rotherham are the most recent among a clutch of clubs who have been turned down by either Sproson or Vale boss John Rudge.

It took a World War to finish Phil's dad Jess' career as a left-back with the club after 200 games in the 1930s.

Later Uncle Roy created a club record of a staggering 761 League appearances during his 22-year career as a wing-half.

Now 28-year-old Phil is in his

testimonial year, and knows he couldn't have scripted a more eventful one.

"After beating Spurs in the last round we didn't care who we were paired with this time – so long as we were at home. It's going to be another packed house and our supporters will hopefully heap quite a bit of pressure on Watford.

"It will be a test of character for both teams, although I don't think our famous heavy pitch will bother them.

"I'm told the surface at Vicarage Road is equally muddy and, in any case, they are a hardworking side. They'll roll up their sleeves and I can't see them just wanting to get the game over with."

And if you think Sproson's last comment is a little dig at Spurs you are right. But he is anxious to point out he didn't label Venables' side as spineless, gutless or chicken, as was intimated after the Fourth Round.

"What I said was that we felt Spurs just weren't fired up for the

game and nothing more. It upset me that things were attributed to my name and I sent a letter of apology to Spurs captain Gary Mabbutt."

Sproson's other regret this season is the club's League form. After an encouraging start the club has slid into the bottom half of the Third Division.

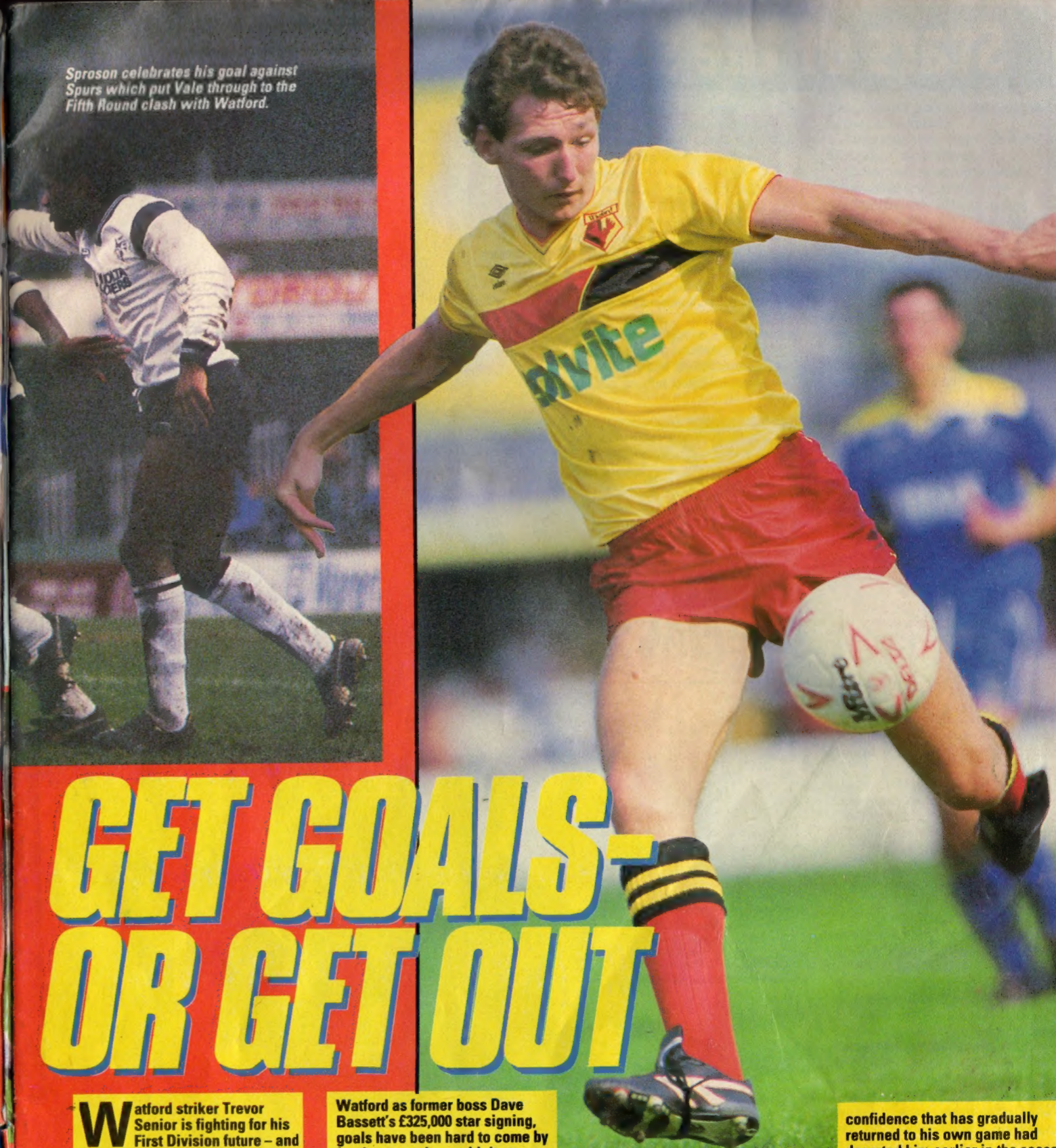
"We just can't score goals," he sighs. "Our top goalscorer is Andy Jones with six – and he left us for Charlton last September."

Asset

Rudge has used a proportion of the £300,000 the club received for their prized asset to sign Simon Mills, Gary Ford, David Riley and Darren Hughes for a total of £100,000.

And Sproson adds: "I hope the boss can use some of the money generated from our Cup run to go out and get us another striker because I feel we're one of the better teams in the Third Division. With more goals we could be pressing for the Play-Offs."

Sproson celebrates his goal against Spurs which put Vale through to the Fifth Round clash with Watford.



GET GOALS- OR GET OUT

Watford striker Trevor Senior is fighting for his First Division future – and that could spell big trouble for giantkillers Port Vale.

Every game is vital to Senior as he battles to recapture the golden touch which will save his Vicarage Road career.

A goal, and victory, against Third Division Vale, to add to his winning strike at Coventry in the last round, would certainly help his cause. Defeat could put another nail in his coffin.

"I have been the villain all season because I haven't been scoring the goals I was bought for. But I'll be the hero if I get the winner on Saturday," predicts the former Reading goal ace.

Since Senior's arrival at

Watford as former boss Dave Bassett's £325,000 star signing, goals have been hard to come by for the man who couldn't stop scoring for his old club.

Under fire from the fans, his anxiety increased when Bassett was sacked and Steve Harrison was brought in to salvage a desperate situation.

'Chance'

"As a major Bassett signing I half expected to be among the first to go but thankfully Steve Harrison told me that I would be given the same chance to prove myself as anyone else," he says.

"He gave me a couple of months to see how things go and has warned me that if there is no

progress we will have to talk again."

To some it might sound like an ultimatum; to Senior it's a reprieve. Either way, he knows what is being demanded of him.

"The simple fact is I've got to score goals," he insists. "I've never had such a barren run but I'm more optimistic about my future than I was a month or so ago."

"Since the new manager came in the whole club has been given a lift and I can only benefit from the confidence and spirit which is again running through the side."

Senior openly admits that the

confidence that has gradually returned to his own game had deserted him earlier in the season as he became a target for the Watford boo boys.

"I'd be lying if I said the abuse got didn't upset me," he recalls. "When you're not scoring goals you expect stick but I came in for more than my fair share."

"I was being criticised in the Press as well and it obviously affected me. I'd even begun to have doubts about my ability to score goals."

"But I've tried to battle through and I'm working harder than I've ever done in my career to the fans – and the manager worth all the money the c for me."

Stars of the season ... from the team of the season

DOUBLE DELIGHT

CRUYFF's control; Pele's poise; Greavsie's goal sense ... Peter Beardsley has international class stamped all over him – even down to the Nobby Stiles grin.

The star quality was in evidence long before his British record transfer, but now he complements it with a lethal dose of consistency only Liverpool could have inspired.

With typical Anfield modesty, Beardsley plays down his contribution in Liverpool's all-conquering side, but few would question his worth to a club bidding for an historic second League and FA Cup triumph.

Together with Kenny Dalglish's other pre-season signing, John Barnes, Peter the Great has set the Reds alight and placed the Liverpool '88 vintage on the brink of invincibility.

Beardsley and Barnes – not to mention John Aldridge – have not only proved there is life after Ian Rush; they have unveiled an attacking style unrivalled in Britain.

'Dream'

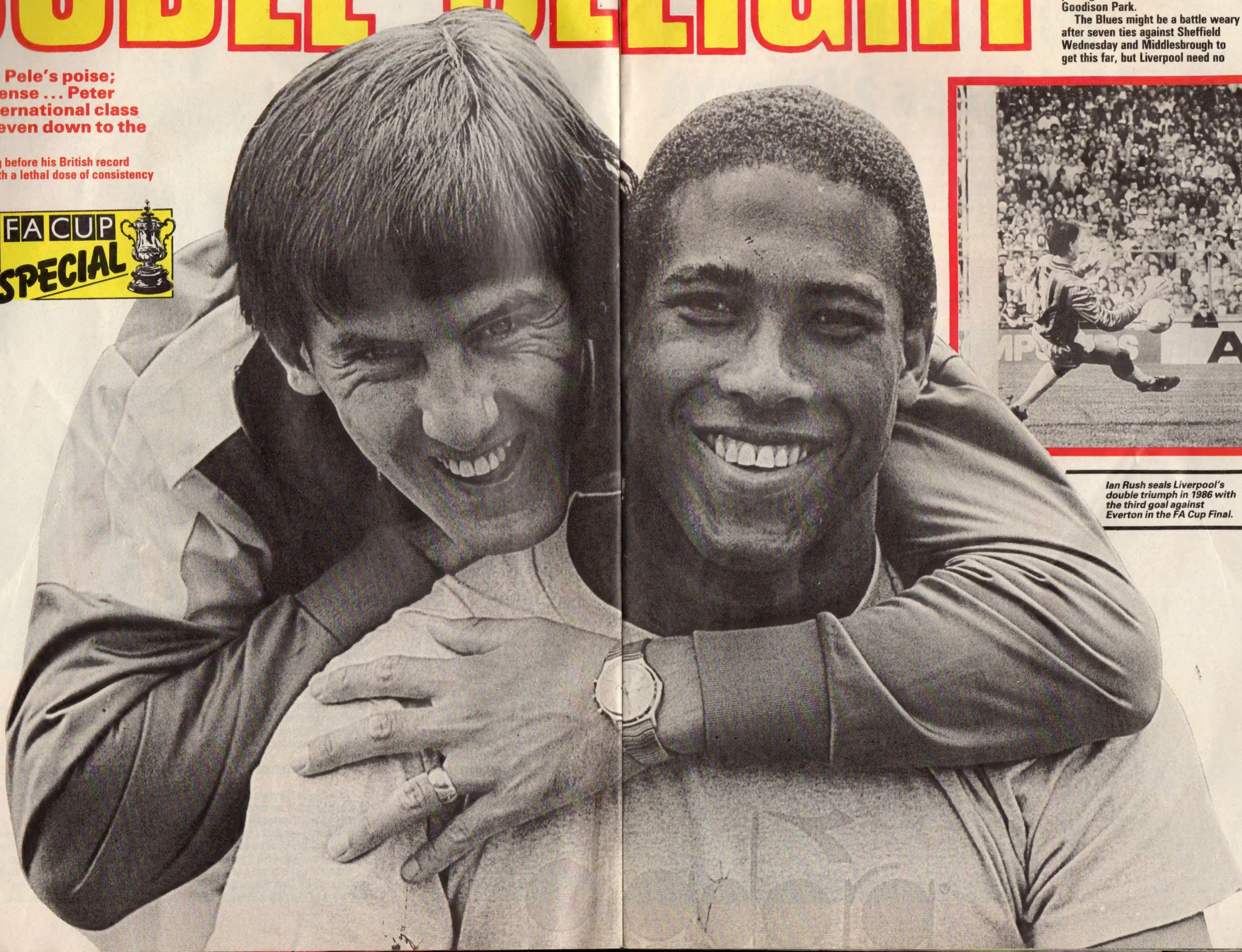
With around 40 goals between them already this season the trio have clearly hit it off and team-mate Steve McMahon says: "They are a dream to play with – and watch!

"Peter and John, in particular, make my job in midfield so much easier and half the time I just have to give them the ball then sit back and admire their skills.

"Between them they have added a new dimension to our play and even though they are both superb individual players, they have to operate within the framework of the team.

"In the past we used to rely on one man – Ian Rush – to get the goals but now Peter, John and John Aldridge share the responsibility. Since they arrived we have become a better unit.

"Of the two new boys John settled in the quicker and he has been an absolute revelation this season. Peter, on the other hand started off a little slower, but has been in blinding form recently. Long may it continue."



LIVERPOOL are finding their route to Wembley more hazardous than their path to the Championship.

While the outcome of the title race is virtually a foregone conclusion, the mighty Reds are being made to pull out all the stops to stay on course for another League and FA Cup triumph.

A repeat of their 1986 double act would create a piece of English soccer history – but they are going to have to do it the hard way.

Boss Kenny Dalglish and his side couldn't have chosen a tougher Fifth Round fixture than their pairing with rivals Everton at Goodison Park.

The Blues might be a battle weary after seven ties against Sheffield Wednesday and Middlesbrough to get this far, but Liverpool need no

reminding that Everton are the only side that has managed to sink the Reds this season.

That was in the Littlewoods Cup back in October, when defender Gary Stevens grabbed the only goal of the tie at Anfield.

"I'd settle for a repeat of that scoreline," says Stevens.

"After the marathon against Wednesday the last thing we needed was another one against Middlesbrough.

"But the prospect of a Fifth Round tie at home to Liverpool gave us all the incentive we needed to keep battling away."

It's the third time in a row that Liverpool have been handed a tie away from their Anfield fortress, and their task is becoming increasingly demanding as the competition goes on.



Ian Rush seals Liverpool's double triumph in 1986 with the third goal against Everton in the FA Cup Final.

Steve McMahon says: "Whoever makes the draw certainly isn't making it easy for us.

"Going to Goodison is always tough – and such an important cup tie it will be even tougher.

"But providing we play to the high standards we've set all season – and we get the breaks – we'll fancy our chances.

"Our consistency so far is something to be proud of and, while everyone is waiting for us to fall, we're determined to make sure it doesn't happen.

"Any talk of us winning the Championship – let alone the double – is dangerously premature, however. If we thought the same way as many people do, we would soon come unstuck."

Arsenal
v
Man United

Fist and shout



ENGLAND hopeful Steve Bruce is ready to yell Manchester United all the way to Wembley.

It's only two months since the dominating centre-half completed his £800,000 move from Norwich, but already he's had to take charge of a defence which faces a stern test of character in the forthcoming FA Cup clash at Arsenal.

In ten games for his new club, Bruce has already had five different defensive partners. And he is still to team up with Paul McGrath, the man he was signed to play alongside. All of which has forced the

27-year-old Bruce to grit his teeth, clench his fists and take command of a back four which has come in for serious criticism this season.

Not that he's complaining. "I was the man who called the shots at Norwich, and I'm happy to be doing the same for United," he says.

"I like to be in charge. I'm that sort of player. If I had to be as quiet as a mouse and just do what everyone else told me, I wouldn't be up to it."

Bruce has made such a winning impression on Alex Ferguson that the United boss has already recommended him to Bobby

Robson for an England call-up. But Bruce's only worry right now is how to contain the lofty Arsenal attack in this weekend's Cup showdown at Highbury.

"It's a big game. It couldn't be much harder. But we can take heart from our performance there the other week and we're quietly confident."

United played with Bryan Robson at sweeper for the first-half of their 2-1 Highbury victory last month, but moved their captain into midfield after the break.

"I'm not sure what tactics we'll use this time," says Steve. "That was only the second time I'd

played with a man behind me, but if I've got to rely on a sweeper I couldn't ask for a better man than Bryan Robson.

"As well as Bryan, I've also played with Kevin Moran, Mike Duxbury, Viv Anderson and now Graeme Hogg.

"Duxbury has got to be the most underrated player in the game. He's so reliable.

'Grabbed'

"Viv Anderson's experience has been a big help, and Graeme Hogg has done really well for himself since Kevin Moran's injury. He's grabbed his chance."

Bruce is already steeling himself for another aerial bombardment from Arsenal, who are sure to make the most of their towering strikers Niall Quinn and Alan Smith.

Twin Towers aim for Twin Towers – twice!

GANGLY Gunner Niall Quinn is planning another air raid on Manchester United's defence system to keep Arsenal on course for a Wembley double.

Before continuing their Littlewoods Cup Semi-Final showdown with Everton next week they must dispose of United to keep their FA Cup hopes alive.

Although the Manchester club escaped with a victory from Highbury last month, their back four was under constant threat from the mighty Quinn and co-pilot Alan Smith.

And the young Eire international, who scored one goal and had two controversially disallowed in the 2-1 League defeat, promises another aerial bombardment on Saturday.

"Only this time United won't get off so lightly," he insists. "We deserved to win that televised game – as I'm sure millions would agree – and I was disappointed my two goals didn't stand."

'Criticised'

"I always seem to be criticised for not scoring enough goals and when I get a hat-trick they go and take two off! Hopefully this time I can score three GOOD goals."

Quinn's return to first team action after a spell in the reserves has stemmed speculation about his Highbury future, although he admits he's not guaranteed a

regular place in George Graham's line-up.

His height and power should make him a first choice for the FA Cup, however, and he's relishing the prospect of facing United. "I was pleased with my performance against them last time and I know I can cause them problems again – providing the boss keeps faith with me."

"Even though we lost 2-1 we are certainly not worried about facing them again so soon. In fact United are the ones who are probably frightened and they can't be looking forward to the game as much as we are."

'Cheer'

"When we heard the draw a massive cheer went up and we are all determined to get them back. United at home is better than Port Vale away."

"They have some world class players in Brian McClair and Gordon Strachan, but we have the men to stop them."

"A win on Saturday would put us in good spirits for the Semi-Final return against Everton a few days later."

"We had a great result at Goodison Park with Perry Groves giving us a 1-0 first-leg advantage. A repeat of that display should see us through to Wembley and keep us on course for a Cup Final double."

Bruce can clean up Arsenal's aerial test

Quinn scored one and had another two controversially ruled out when the sides last met and Bruce concedes: "He can be a right handful. He battles for everything."

"I wasn't directly involved in either of his two disallowed efforts, so I can't really say if they were fouls or not. But I do know that the referee blew very early on both occasions. I could definitely have cleared the second one, but I didn't bother because the ref had already blown."

With United a long way behind Liverpool in the Championship race and having been dumped out of the Littlewoods Cup at Oxford, Bruce knows it is essential for them to progress in the FA Cup.

"The winners of this Fifth Round tie can go all the way to Wembley," he predicts.

"I won the Milk Cup with Norwich just six months after signing for them. I hope that's a lucky omen, because the FA Cup Final will be almost six months to the day I arrived at Old Trafford."

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Quinn caused havoc in the United defence when the two clubs clashed at Highbury in the League and the Irishman's power in the air could end Steve Bruce's FA Cup dreams.





Gazza's got goosepimples!

'I get scared just thinking about this match'

NEWCASTLE idol Paul Gascoigne has a Fifth Round fear – but it isn't the prospect of a bruising battle with Wimbledon's midfield hard men that's giving Gazza goosepimples.

"They don't worry me at all, but the thought of playing such an important Cup-tie in front of a packed St. James' Park crowd is quite frightening," confesses the jewel in the Geordie crown.

"As a local lad I know exactly how much the fans up here want success and how badly they need us to beat Wimbledon. I just don't want to let them down."

The seemingly unflappable Gascoigne, usually as cocky and arrogant as he is brilliant, suffered a temporary attack of stage fright before the Fourth Round clash with Swindon.

'Nervous'

"I was very nervous and it took me a good 20 minutes to get into the game," he admits. "But that was probably more due to the presence of Bobby Robson in the crowd than the occasion."

"Our supporters are fabulous and I have a very special relationship with them. They deserve success and the only way we

can give them that this season is by winning the FA Cup."

Despite a nervy opening against Swindon, Gazza emerged as the hero with two goals and a performance in a 5-0 win which confirmed his claim to the unofficial title of the best young player in Britain.

A similar display on Saturday would help put Newcastle on course for a Quarter-Final showdown – and make up for the disappointing Littlewoods Cup



Newcastle v Wimbledon

defeat at the hands of Wimbledon in October.

Having squandered at least two chances to wrap the tie up with his side already a goal ahead, Gazza shouldered much of the blame for the way Wimbledon stole a dramatic 2-1 victory.

"I should have made more of a couple of opportunities and, although Dave Beasant did brilliantly to keep my shots out, I have to accept most of the responsibility," he recalls.

"Hopefully I can put things right on Saturday. I've got my eye in now and I'm taking chances I was missing a few months ago."

He's sure to be a marked man against workaholic Wimbledon but says: "I'm not worried who they put on me or how tightly he marks me because I'm used to it."

Speculation

Gascoigne is playing the best football of his short, yet brilliant career and he's determined not to let speculation about his future affect his form.

While Newcastle boss Willie McFaul is desperate to hang on to his prized asset, the cream of the country's clubs are poised like vultures to snap him up.

The player refuses to add fuel to the rumours. "I just want to concentrate on my football. I've been offered a new contract, but there's 16 months of my old one to run and I don't want to be rushed into anything."

"I don't want the issue to drag on and affect my form, as happened to Chris Waddle. The fans have made it clear they want me to stay and I am thinking about signing the new deal."

Ice cool Cork

More than 28,000 fanatical Tynesiders will crush into St. James' Park for this Saturday's FA Cup Fifth Round tie. A Newcastle victory will be another step towards their greatest dream. Defeat is unthinkable. But for Wimbledon, it's just another game.

Alan Cork, scorer of Wimbledon's Fourth Round winner at Mansfield, certainly isn't losing any sleep over his forthcoming test of nerve.

"Those Geordies love their football and I suppose they'll be making a right old row up there," he predicts. "But we'll have a battle with them and although not many teams would fancy going up there, we're not worried."

"Before the Fifth Round draw, Kenny Dalglish said he didn't want to be away to Luton or QPR on their plastic pitches, he didn't want Port Vale and he didn't want Wimbledon."

"I don't know if that's a compliment or an insult, but it proves what we already know."

Teams don't like playing against Wimbledon.

"It's hard for opponents to shine against us because we close them down so well. Paul Gascoigne hardly had a look-in when we won at their place in the League."

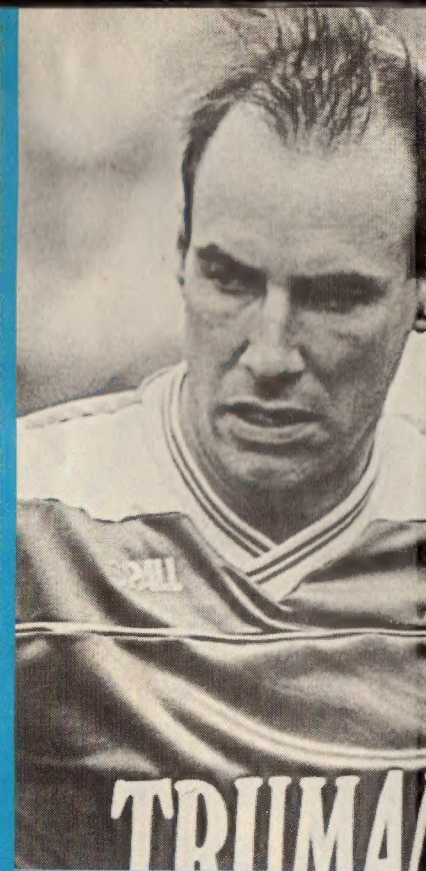
Wimbledon have already beaten Newcastle three times this season, and although Cork concedes that they were "a bit lucky" in the Littlewoods Cup, he also expects them to keep that run going.

'Bet'

"I'll never bet on Wimbledon, but I've told my girlfriend's dad to have some money on us at 12-1 and a few other lads have been down the bookies."

"We're still kicking ourselves for losing to Spurs in last season's Quarter-Final. We were too confident. But we've learned a lesson from that defeat and we won't make the same mistake again."

Cork, now in his 11th year



with Wimbledon, scored his 150th goal for the club earlier this season and is more than satisfied with his current form.

"Things didn't look too clever at the start of the season when the boss signed Terry Gibson, but I've won my place back and I've got 12 goals so far."

"I always score goals, even if I play badly. I've told the boss not to worry about my strike rate. It's my general play which sometimes lets me down."

"John Fashanu has done well to get 15 goals this season, but he's not a natural scorer like me. I reckon I'll have more than him by the end of the season."

And when the 28-year-old striker runs out at Newcastle, he'll remember the advice given by Wimbledon and England coach Don Howe before The Dons set out on their Cup run.

"Don said that in a decent career you'll get maybe ten chances to win the FA Cup. I'm now starting my eleventh year with Wimbledon, so I've got to make the most of this one."

Can you beat our columnists?

FIFTH ROUND	REID	BARNES	ROBSON	BROOKING	GREAVES	BUTCHER	SHOOT	READER
QPR v Luton	1	2	1	X	1	1	1	
Newcastle v Wimbledon	1	2	1	1	1	X	1	
Port Vale v Watford	X	2	2	2	1	2	X	
Portsmouth v Bradford	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Arsenal v Manchester United	1	1	X	1	2	X	X	
Everton/M'brough v Liverpool	1/2	2	X/2	2	1/2	1/2	2	
Man City v Plymouth	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Birmingham v Notts Forest	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
1 - home win; 2 - away win; X - draw								
Form guide after Rds 3 & 4	25/48	29/48	29/48	30/48	21/48	28/48	27/48	/48

Mirandinha made his home debut for Newcastle in the 2-1 defeat by Wimbledon and he and Gascoigne will pose the biggest threat to The Dons' dreams of FA Cup glory.





I'LL KICK DEN OUT OF TOWN

QPR v Luton

DAVID PIZANTI, QPR's Israeli international, admits that virtually the only thing he knows about FA Cup Fifth Round opponents Luton Town is that they also play on plastic.

But Pizanti will more than make up for his lack of inside information if he can repeat the spectacular scoring form he showed against West Ham in the Fourth Round.

His stunning 30-yard drive, in only his second full game for QPR, helped bring his dream of a Wembley appearance a step nearer.



"I have never scored a better goal than that, especially as it was with my weaker right foot," he says.

Pizanti cannot promise a repeat against Luton, but he is determined to fight for the place he gained at left-back following the eight-match suspension of Mark Dennis.

Just as Pauline is currently committed to driving Dirty Den out of Walford, Pizanti has QPR's version in his sights.

"That goal has given me so much confidence. I am determined to train hard and play well to try and stay in the team even when Mark Dennis is available again."

Complaints

Pizanti, capped 26 times by Israel, has no complaints about his long wait for regular first team football since his £150,000 move from FC Cologne last summer.

"English football is so different

from anything else in the world that I needed time to learn about it," he says.

"Jim Smith, Peter Shreeves and Bobby Campbell have taught me so many things. Now it is up to me to show what I can do."

Pizanti knows that Luton's extra experience of artificial pitches will make it a particularly tough tie.

The Hatters were the first side to win on the Rangers plastic, and their record there has always been better than most. However, QPR accounted for them 2-1 in a Fourth Round replay last season, and won 2-0 in a League game last September.

Portsmouth v Bradford

Mick Kennedy has found himself the centre of attention in Bradford ever since the FA Cup Fifth Round draw paired his new club with former team Portsmouth.

The 26-year-old midfielder, signed for £250,000 just before this season's Third Round last month, has been bombarded by Yorkshire fans eager to know his verdict on Saturday's clash at Fratton Park.

"I've lost count of the number of supporters who have talked to me about this match," says Kennedy.

"And I've had to be straight with them and warn them that on their day Pompey can give anyone a good hiding at Fratton Park."

Pompey boss Alan Ball has already declared his intent on a good Cup run this season, his confidence boosted by a

DREAD KENNEDY

recent unbeaten run that is beginning to erase fears of relegation from Division One.

And Kennedy adds: "I've been heartened by their recent recovery and I reckon the Bradford lads would be

happy with a draw.

"I reckon we'll give them a good game and I've been impressed by Bradford in the short time I've been here, particularly with the attacking players like Stuart McCall, John Hendrie and big Ian Ormondroyd."

Kennedy insists however that promotion is more important than a Cup run.

"Promotion has got to be our priority, and we've got some work to do after a run of bad results that prompted the club to sign me."

Secret

It's an open secret that Kennedy's ball-winning qualities in midfield were something that Pompey boss Ball didn't want to lose.

Kennedy adds: "I can't really comment on that, sometimes money counts before all else, and obviously the club found Bradford's offer hard to refuse."

"I had many happy times at Pompey and I've been looking forward to this one ever since the draw was made. It should be a cracker."

Recalling his action-packed weekend he says: "I was in a hotel in Barnsley when I received a call on Saturday to say Karen had been rushed into hospital."

"I borrowed manager Gary Pendry's car and raced down to Nottingham in time for the birth at about quarter to twelve. Then there was the small matter of getting back to Barnsley for the Cup-tie. I made it with about an hour to spare!"

"To score in a 2-0 win and then discover we'd drawn Forest in the next round capped an incredible couple of days."



ROCK 'EM TOMMY

Manchester City v Plymouth

FA CUP fever is again sweeping through the South Coast port of Plymouth - four years after the club caught the imagination of the nation.

It was in 1984 that Argyle, then a Third Division outfit, sailed majestically through to the Semi-Finals of the competition for the first time in the club's history.

And, now as they prepare for their latest Cup voyage to Maine Road and a Fifth Round battle with Manchester City, the town is buzzing again with the anticipation of another gripping Cup run.

Tommy Tynan was a member of the side denied a Wembley appearance by Watford four years ago and he's optimistic about the current team's chances.

"I fancy us to beat Manchester City and go into the hat for the Quarter-Finals," declares the free-scoring striker.

At this stage four years ago we were all wrapped up in the

euphoria having fought our way through from the First Round. This time, having only played two games so far, the excitement has yet to reach fever pitch.

"A victory over City would soon remedy that and it would be marvellous to go through that experience all over again."

Hammered

Despite losing at Maine Road on the opening day of the season and being hammered 6-2 in the Simod Cup before Christmas, Tynan is not unduly concerned about the latest visit.

"City's record at home lately hasn't been that impressive and they are no longer invincible on their own patch," says Tommy, the latest member of the 200 League goals club.

"We will expect them to come at us because they are a very attacking side, but our defence is more stable and solid than it's been all season. If the lads at the back can hold firm it's down to the likes of me to snatch a goal on the break."



CHILD'S PLAY FOR WIGLEY

Birmingham v Nottm Forest

FORMER Forest flyer Steve Wigley is aiming to destroy old boss Brian Clough's FA Cup dream by sending his City Ground kids crashing out of the competition.

The FA Cup is the one major trophy to have eluded Clough and this season's competition represents his best chance of completing a magnificent collection.

No one would like to see the City Ground chief basking in Wembley glory more than Wigley - but not this season.

"I know how badly he wants to win the FA Cup," says the Birmingham winger. "But on this occasion I'm going to be doing all I can to upset his plans."

"The side Cloughie has put together is superb and I'm full of admiration for them, but I'm not envious. I have no regrets about leaving Forest because I wouldn't have been in the side anyway."

Wigley played more than 100 first team games for Forest



before moving on to Sheffield United in 1985 and then joining Birmingham towards the end of last season.

While his first League club has gone from strength to strength his own personal fortunes have struggled to keep pace, but Wigley is happy. And none of his

memorable days at the City Ground can compete with the events of January 30, 1988.

That was the day his wife Karen gave birth to a baby boy Jake and he then dashed to Barnsley to score Birmingham's all-important second goal in the 2-0 FA Cup Fourth Round win.

OUR SHOOT VIEW
demanding the banning
of Millwall from the First
Division if they win promotion
was unfortunately published
before the club was cleared of
all blame following incidents
during their FA Cup-tie at
Arsenal.

New information also
revealed the trouble at
Highbury was exaggerated.
I apologise to all at The Den

WRONG ABOUT MILLWALL!

for jumping to
conclusions...and for the
photograph that appeared in
our 30th January issue.
The caption to the photo that
was part of Snapshots implied



Millwall are
sure their team
and the
supporters
would be a
credit to the
First Division.

that characters shown were
Millwall fans... they weren't.

Millwall director Geoff Burnage
was upset by our editorial and
photo.

"We were not so much angry as
wounded by the comments," says
Geoff.

"The players were so upset by
the reaction of the Press after the
game at Highbury we had to send
them to Lanzarote for a break.

"Sadly, Millwall's reputation is
such that the media are

conditioned to seeing our fans in a
bad light.

"Take the trouble to speak to
people up and down the country
and you'll discover our supporters
are no worse than those at other
clubs.

"In fact we do more to combat
hooliganism than most clubs. We
do more work in the local
community than most clubs. And

you'll hear very few racial chants
at The Den.

"Manager John Docherty has
worked wonders. Thanks to his
efforts we are close to achieving
our dream of First Division
football. Millwall would be a
credit to the game at top level.

"But don't take my word for it,
come down to The Den and see for
yourself."

Are the Lions as bad as their reputation? Find out soon in SHOOT.

ShootView Scotspurs

TOTTENHAM are in trouble,
and to some extent their
problems started when they
sold Richard Gough to Rangers.

This may have made sound
business sense because the club
made a profit, but the team has
been less effective since his
departure.

Spurs reached the FA Cup Final
with Gough at the centre of their
defence, and the side was
considered their best for years.

According to reports, manager
Terry Venables has been
searching the Continent for new
players to strengthen his team.

Perhaps, like his predecessors,
Terry should go raiding over the
Scottish border to revive
Tottenham's sagging fortunes.

LAST season Coventry City
entertained us all when beating
Spurs to win one of the best FA
Cup Finals for years.

Sadly they are out of this year's
competition, beaten at home by
Watford.

Will we see another of the so-

Ed's Teaser Be a West Ham VIP!

Leading finance
company Avco Trust,
sponsors of West Ham
United, are offering SHOOT
readers (aged 8-14) the
chance of a lifetime.

The lucky winner of this
Ed's Teaser special will be
West Ham's match day
mascot for their game
against Oxford United at
Upton Park on Saturday, 5th
March.

Our winner will also
receive a pre-match tour of
the ground...free West Ham
strip...and souvenir
photograph book signed by
the players.

He or she will meet the
team in the dressing-room
before the game, get
changed into West Ham
gear before leading them
out on the pitch and joining
in the pre-match
kickaround.

Our winner will, of course,
then watch the game from
the stands with a
companion of their choice.

All you have to do is write
the answers to the three
questions on the back of a
postcard or sealed
envelope. Add your name,
address, age and telephone
number.

QUESTIONS

1. Which former Oxford
player, now with Liverpool,
started his career with West
Ham?
2. Name the famous
Hammer who received the
MBE in this year's New
Year's honours list.
3. Who was manager of
West Ham when they won
the FA Cup in 1964?

Send to SHOOT/West
Ham Mascot, c/o SHOOT
magazine (The address is at
the top of the page) to arrive
no later than Thursday, 25th
February.

The winner will be the
sender of the first correct
entry, with age taken into
account, picked out of a hat
after the closing date.

The winner will be
notified and the result
published later in SHOOT.
No correspondence can be
entered into and the Editor's
decision is final.

called unfashionable clubs
springing another surprise this
time?

We doubt it. But watch out for
Newcastle United. They've hit
form and swept into the Fifth
Round with a sizzling display
against Swindon, a side that
looked more than capable of
causing a few upsets themselves.

Watching Mirandinha and Paul
Gascoigne at Wembley in May
would be a real treat.



OI! WE ARE A FAMILY, OK!

WHO'S ON THEIR WAY TO EUROPE?

It could be you, not heading for
the terraces but out there on the
pitch at the Nou Camp Stadium
just like these three lads. They
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the league clubs. Our 1985 skills
winner is currently with the England
elite squad at Lillleshall and our 1988
winner looks to have a very
promising future.

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Calls are charged at 38p a minute at
peak times, 8am-6pm. 25p a minute off
peak after 6pm.

CHER AND CHER ALIKE

Singer Cher once teamed up with
Meatloaf to warble on about a
'Dead Ringer For Love'...but
Michael Brown of Merstham, in
Surrey, reckons her real dead
ringer can be found on
Merseyside.

He writes: "Have you ever
noticed the remarkable similarity
between Cher and Craig Johnston?
Can they, by chance, be related?"



If you think that one just isn't
cricket, old boy, then how about
this suggestion from R. Marsh, of
Tyne and Wear: "Martyn Moxon,
the Yorkshire and England
batsman, looks exactly like Gary
Mabbutt, of Tottenham and
England."



T-Shirts on their way to Michael
and Mr Marsh... at least we will
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L/XL).

ROY DALLEY GOES WORLD WIDE

Tosh stays put



John Toshack, recently linked with managerial jobs at Barcelona and Wales, has been told by Real Sociedad that he isn't going anywhere. Tosh, who guided Sociedad to a Spanish Cup triumph last season, has now elevated his side to second place in the League, albeit far behind runaway leaders Real Madrid.

But that's good enough for Sociedad, whose chairman Inaki Alkiza says: "Toshack signed a new contract with us at the beginning of the season and has committed himself to us until 1989."

"We can think of no reason to want to get rid of him. He stays put."



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NAME.....

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FORMER Wales boss Mike Smith has been reinstated as chief coach of Egypt only a year after getting the sack.

Roberto Baggo, Fiorentina's Italian Under-21 star, has taken the precaution of insuring his legs ... for £8¼ million.



You're all right, Jack!



Tony Galvin has helped Eire top the form guide table.

Worldwide has compiled a table that makes disturbing reading for England manager Bobby Robson during the build-up to the European Championship Finals.

Based on international matches played in 1987, our exclusive chart reveals that each of England's Group Two rivals are among the four European nations boasting the best current form.

And at the top of the heap are Jack Charlton's 40-1 rank outsiders Republic of Ireland, who won six and drew one of their eight matches last year.

Holland, unbeaten in 1987, have the next best record in Europe. Russia are fourth while England, despite several encouraging results, are sixth.

EUROPE'S TOP TEN

	P	W	D	L	%	F	A
1. Rep. of Ireland	8	6	1	1	81.2	14/3	
2. Holland	7	4	3	0	78.5	13/2	
3. Italy	10	6	3	1	75.0	15/3	
4. Russia	9	5	3	1	72.2	12/5	
5. Rumania	9	5	3	1	72.2	19/11	
6. England	8	4	3	1	68.7	20/7	
7. Bulgaria	6	4	0	2	66.6	11/5	
8. West Germany	9	4	4	1	66.6	10/5	
9. Spain	7	4	1	2	64.3	16/10	
10. Sweden	9	4	3	2	61.1	9/6	

Perhaps the bookies might reconsider their view of Eire's chances. If they don't you might be interested in the latest odds: (For the Championship) 13-8 West Germany; 100-30 England; 7-1 Holland; 8-1 Italy; Russia; 10-1 Spain; 12-1 Denmark; 40-1 Eire.

(To win their qualifying Groups) - One - 8-13 West Germany; 100-30 Italy; 6-1 Spain; 7-1 Denmark. Two - Evens England; 5-2 Holland; 11-4 Russia; 14-1 Eire.

Beardsley wanted - at £2M

A leading Italian newspaper has published a list of players most wanted by Serie A clubs next season. It reckons Real Madrid's Emilio Butragueño would be a snip at £6½ million, while Atletico Madrid's Portuguese striker Paulo

Futre rates a price tag of £5m.

Gary Lineker, they say, is worth £4½ million on the international transfer market and, according to Il Messaggero, Peter Beardsley is the only British player worth buying - at around £2 million.

AJAX SCRATCHED

Sampdoria's Yugoslav manager Vujadin Bojkov didn't mince words when rejecting Ajax's offer to replace Johann Cruyff as boss of the European Cup-Winners' Cup holders.

"If I accepted," he said, "it would be like the Director of a University agreeing to become headmaster of a Secondary Modern School. They must be crazy."

England's World Cup opponents Poland are embarking on an intensive programme to develop more young talent. As from next season all First Division clubs will be obliged to run at least 12 youth team games and Second Division clubs will be required to run at least eight. Failure to comply will mean a fine of at least the cost of maintaining a youth team for one season, multiplied by the number of sides below the criteria.

The tiny Republic of San Marino (pop 22,000), are hoping to participate in the 1992 European Championships.

Boss Mackay blasts 'no ambition' rumours

The persistent rumour that Blackburn don't want to win promotion has been blasted by manager Don Mackay.

He recently celebrated his first year in charge at Ewood Park and now asks: "What more can we do to convince people?"

Mackay, a canny Scot, is understandably staggered that a section of Rovers's support seems to doubt the extent of the club's ambition to regain First Division

ROVERS READY TO RETURN



status after a gap of 22 years.

"There seems to have been a feeling in the town for a number of years that the club might shy clear of returning to the First Division. But that's crazy."

"We're not scared of going up. Our wage structure is geared to success and the cost of promotion doesn't frighten us."

"In fact, there's nothing I'd like more than to see 25,000 crowds at Ewood Park for visits from the likes of Liverpool, Everton and Manchester United."

Mackay reveals that the Rovers players were collecting larger-than-usual pay packets because of the club's extra bonus payment based on League position.



Mackay (left) would like nothing better than to see his Blackburn side in First Division action against Liverpool next season.

"We pay a bonus for a top six place, so much for sixth and then doubling up for fifth, fourth and so on. Does that sound like a club that doesn't want to go up?"

Mackay, who served his managerial apprenticeship in Scotland with Dundee, was axed by Coventry and returned north of the border to join Rangers' backroom staff when Graeme Souness took the reins at Ibrox.

In January last year he quit to take up the challenge at Blackburn. They were at the bottom of the table and his brief was simple - to prevent the plunge into the Third Division.

Target

Mackay achieved his target with plenty to spare, Rovers eventually climbing to mid-table respectability. And a goal by Colin Hendry gave them a money-spinning Wembley victory over Charlton in the Full Members' Cup Final.

Hendry's sterling defensive work has had a lot to do with Rovers' achievement of setting a new club record this season as an undefeated run of 19 games saw them leap into second place in the table.

Mackay pulled off another signing coup when he secured the on-loan striking services of Steve Archibald from Barcelona, a deal that emphasised the club's big-time ambition.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's obvious that we want nothing more than to play at the very highest level," adds Mackay.

NOBBY



European Golden Shoe Awards

Britain's best celebrate their triumph with one of the greats from the past - Eusebio.



Britain's ace League marksmen strike gold in Monte Carlo.

Brian McClair and Clive Allen, last season's SHOOT/adidas Golden Shoe winners, received their European awards in the glittering, film star setting of Monte Carlo ... and SHOOT was there.

Romania's Rodion Camataru was the top award winner, receiving the Golden Shoe as the most lethal European striker of 1987.

Camataru won the trophy for the 44 League goals he scored for Dynamo Bucharest.

Silver Shoe went to Anton Polster, now playing in Italy with Torino, for the 39 goals he scored for Austria Vienna.

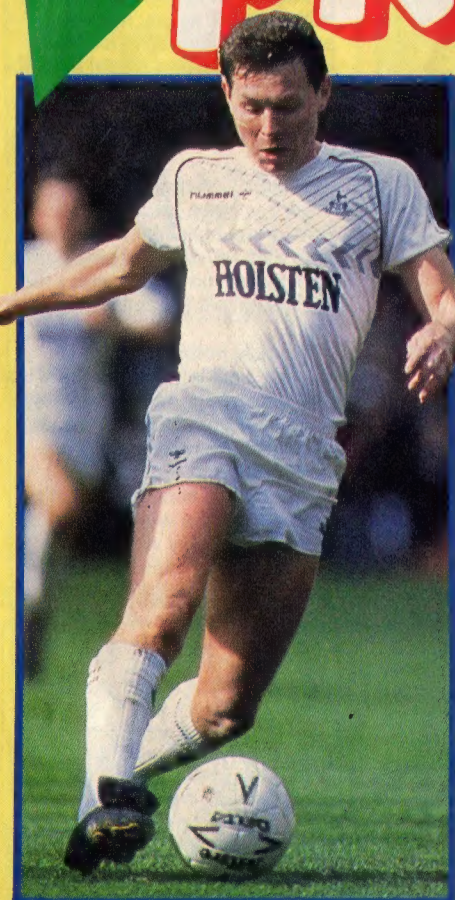
Bronze award was snapped up by Nasko Sirakov of Sofia Vitosha (36 goals).

Ajax of Amsterdam won the European Team Award.

PRIZE GUYS

Best National Goalscorers 1986-87

1 - ENGLAND	Clive Allen	33 GOALS
2 - BELGIUM	Arnor Gudjohnsen	19 GOALS
3 - DENMARK	Claus Nielsen	16 GOALS
4 - SCOTLAND	Brondby	
5 - SPAIN	Brian McClair	35 GOALS
6 - FINLAND	Celtic	
7 - FRANCE	Hugo Sanchez	34 GOALS
8 - GREECE	Real Madrid	
9 - HUNGARY	Ari Hjelm	20 GOALS
10 - IRELAND	Ilves	
11 - ITALY	Bernard Zenier	18 GOALS
12 - LUX'BOURG	FC Metz	
13 - NORWAY	Nikos Anastopoulos	16 GOALS
14 - HOLLAND	Olympiakos Pirans	
15 - PORTUGAL	Lajos Detari	19 GOALS
16 - W. GERMANY	Honved	
17 - SWEDEN	McCoy - Coleraine	14 GOALS
18 - SWITZERLAND	McCartney - Glentoran	14 GOALS
19 - TURKEY	Pietro Paolo Virdis	17 GOALS
	AC Milan	
	Armin Krings	24 GOALS
	Avenir Beggen	
	Seland	12 GOALS
	Start Kristiansand	
	Marco Van Basten	31 GOALS
	Ajax	
	Paulo Cascavel	22 GOALS
	Guimaraes	
	Uwe Rahn	22 GOALS
	B. M'chengladbach	
	Johnny Ekstrom	13 GOALS
	IFK Goteborg	
	Johnny Eriksen	28 GOALS
	Servette Geneva	
	Tanju Colak	25 GOALS
	Galatasaray	



Clive Allen's 33 goals for Spurs last season won him the English award.

Brian McClair's 35 goals for Celtic won him a gold award and a transfer to Old Trafford.



Write exclusively to: Jimmy Greaves, SHOOT, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1NG. £10 for Star Letter, £5 for others published. Overseas readers receive SHOOT T-shirt (please state size: small, medium or large). When writing please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue. We regret that no personal correspondence can be entered into.

Wales don't need England

What's all the fuss about Mike England being given the boot by Wales? He had better players than either Irish manager to work with yet still never achieved anything in seven years.

KEVIN PALMER, HEREFORD.



Not true. He had players equal to the Irishmen, but he had incredible bad luck with the draws for the World Cups and European Championships. Even England would have struggled if they'd been in those groups. Mike knows they're not going to qualify for the next World Cup, either, and I suspect that deep down he was really quite relieved when the axe finally did fall.

Cup that cheers

What a great FA Cup Fifth Round draw, with all the big boys knocking each other out and a good chance of Port Vale making it to the Quarter-Finals.

MATTHEW TREADWELL, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS.



It couldn't have been better. And hopefully whoever wins the big Liverpool game will get the winners of the Arsenal v Manchester United tie in the next round. My Forest tip is still looking good, and I want Newcastle or Wimbledon to be at Wembley with them. In fact, why not Port Vale to go all the way?

Webb shock

I'm surprised that Neil Webb has signed a new contract with Nottingham Forest. He could have earned a lot more money by signing for Spurs or Manchester United.

BRAD THOMPSON, GRANGE-OVER-SANDS, CUMBRIA.



True, and I'm surprised one of them didn't come in with an offer which Forest wouldn't have been able to turn down. But things haven't worked out too badly for Webb (below) at Forest. They're a good club and Cloughie can be a very persuasive manager.



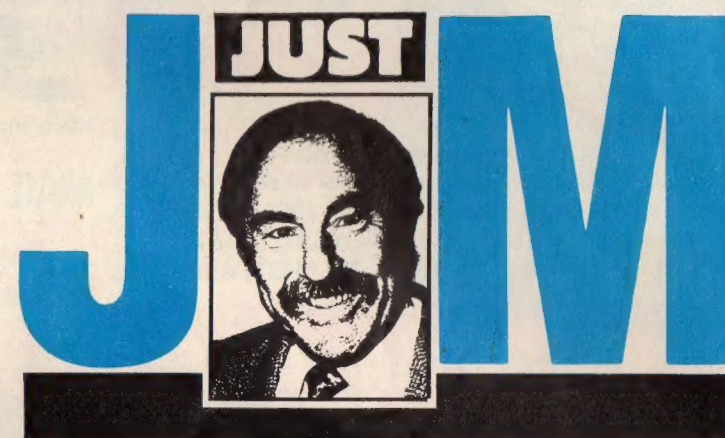
Bargain Beardsley

Peter Beardsley is proving you and all his other critics wrong. His £1.9 million fee now looks to be a bargain.

JOHN COPE, LYMM, CHESHIRE.



Beardsley is playing excellently and scoring some great goals. That's why Liverpool paid so much for him. But I still say he's not been as outstanding as John Barnes or Steve McMahon. And given a couple of weeks training, I reckon even I could get a dozen goals a season for the current Liverpool team.



This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from Scott Harrison of Wellhall Road, Hamilton in Lanarkshire. He writes:

MacADONA?

Now with Brazilian international Josimar being linked with Dundee United, it seems the sky is the limit in Scotland. What chances of Maradona coming to the Premier Division?



Absolutely no chance whatsoever. He wouldn't even contemplate such a move, because he knows the sort of reception an Argentinian would get in Britain and also because none of our clubs could ever afford his wages. But Mirandinha has been a success story over here and now other Brazilians want to try their luck. I'm not sure if Josimar will be such a hit if he signs for United, which now looks unlikely. But the wheel has certainly turned full circle in terms of the ability to sign the big names. If you want to play in Europe in front of sell-out crowds, you go to Scotland instead of England now.

Crabby Kenny

With Liverpool running away with everything in sight, I can't help wondering why Kenny Dalglish is such a misery. Surely he could give us a smile every now and again.

ARWEL WILLIAMS, PWLLHELI, GWYNEDD.



Kenny is a nice guy, but he's also very serious minded and it's not that easy to change your personality. Some people might think I'm a bit of an idiot, but I believe that if you greet people with a smile they'll smile back. I'd love to see Kenny smile more often. After all, it is supposed to be a funny old game!



Wally of the Week

I've just discovered a record featuring the Spurs Cup winning team of 1967, with a certain Jimmy Greaves singing "Strolling." Did you receive any further musical offers, as you could have been another Frank Sinatra?

TONY DAVIES, CHALFONT ST. GILES, BUCKS.



As a matter of fact, I did receive one offer and it just so happens it came from Frank and some of his friends. They told me it was an offer I couldn't refuse - stop singing ... or else!

OXFORD UNITED



BACK ROW (left to right): John Dreyer, Peter Hucker, Jeremy Charles (retired), Alan Judge, Gary Briggs, Steve Hardwick, Billy Whitehurst.
MIDDLE ROW: Sean Reck, Ken Fish (physio), Robbie Mustoe, Paul Swannack, Martin Foyle, Ray Graydon (asst. manager), Dean Saunders, Neil Slatter, Peter Rhoades-Brown, David Leworthy (now Shrewsbury), David Langan (now Bournemouth), David Fogg (coach), Lee Nogan.
FRONT ROW: Kevin Brock (now QPR), Trevor Hebbard, Malcolm Shotton (now Portsmouth), Maurice Evans (manager), Tommy Caton, Les Phillips, John Trewick.

Oxford United, Manor Ground, Headington, Oxford.
 Tel. (0865) 61503.
 Year formed: 1896.
 Chairman: Kevin Maxwell.
 Manager: Maurice Evans.
 Honours: Second Division Champions 1984-85. Third Division Champions 1967-68, 1983-84. Milk Cup winners 1986.

**OXFORD UNITED
F.C.**



Shoot!

Evans ready to SPEND, SPEND, SPEND!

MILD-MANNERED Maurice Evans has been more like a bank manager than the boss of a football team this season.

He has been handing out loans left, right and centre while his Oxford side have struggled near the foot of the table.

Opposing managers come banging desperately on Evans' door asking his help in sorting out their sticky goalkeeping problems – and the Manor Ground boss has consented willingly.

He is certainly in a position to act as saviour, having three tried, trusted and talented goalkeepers at his disposal.

"I'm very fortunate indeed, says Evans. "Peter Hucker, Alan Judge and Steve Hardwick are excellent 'keepers, all of whom have gone on loan somewhere this season.

"It does get confusing sometimes because I'm not sure who is on loan and who is still at Oxford."

Hardwick impressed Sunderland so much during his temporary spell with them at the beginning of the season that the Roker club tried to sign him on a permanent basis. But the 'keeper turned them down.

While Evans has an

abundance of shot-stoppers at his fingertips, he accepts his squad isn't as strong as he'd like, and is ready to spend some of the cash locked in the Manor vaults.

"I've only about 15 first teamers to choose from and there comes a time when I've got to pick players who are struggling for form.

"I'm always looking for new players and try to get along to as many matches as I can to keep an

eye on certain ones."

Money is no problem for Evans. He still has most of the £800,000 obtained from the sale of midfielder genius Ray Houghton to Liverpool in October.

Evans' biggest headache in a season that has seen Oxford slip from their respectable early mid-table position, although there has been the bonus of another splendid Littlewoods Cup run, has

been his defence.

"Injuries to two key players, Gary Briggs and Neil Slatter, has certainly not helped," he says. "They were serious injuries and the defence has been far too leaky. We missed both of them."

Up front Oxford have been relying considerably on the goalscoring ability of Dean Saunders and Martin Foyle.

Saunders has been in good form, scoring in every round of his side's surge to the Littlewoods

Cup Semi-Final stage.

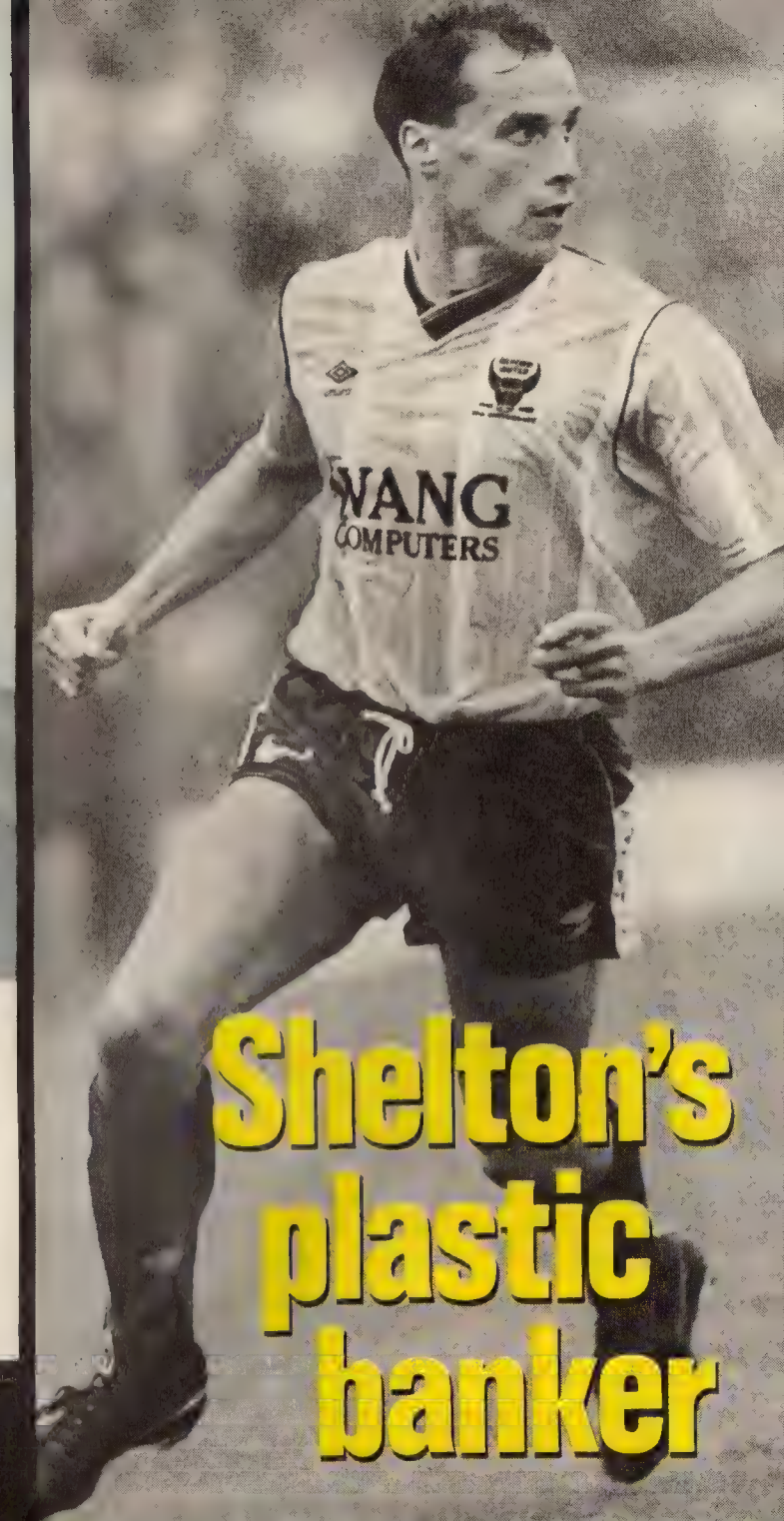
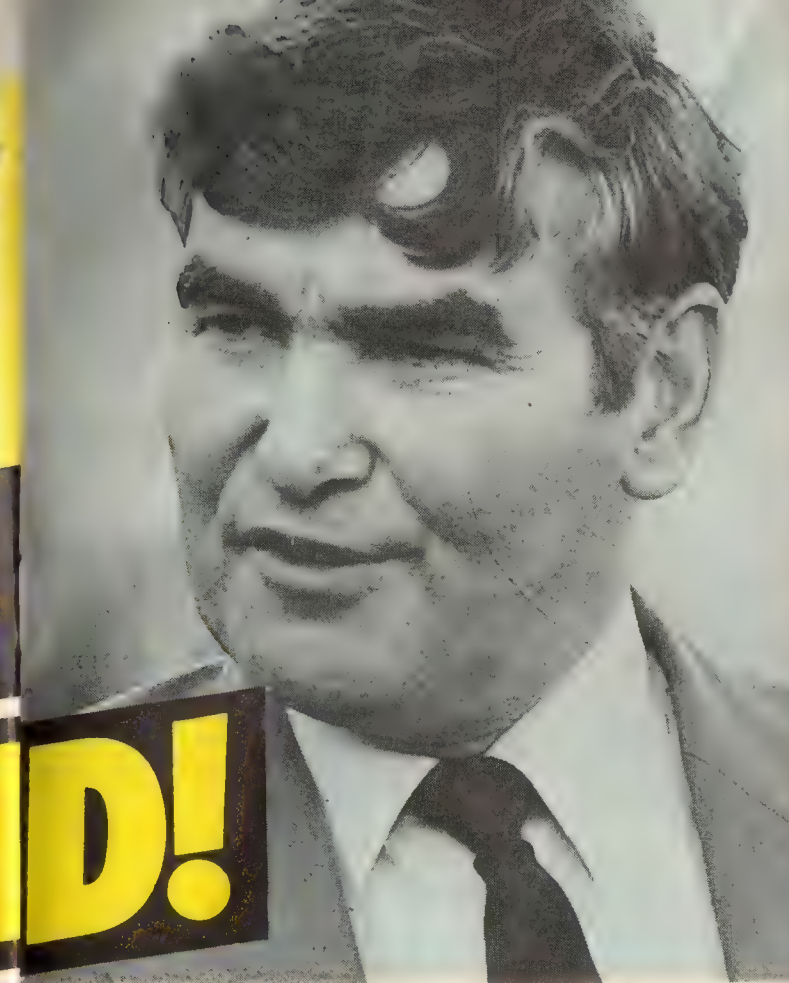
Only Luton stand in Oxford's way of another Wembley appearance in the competition – they beat QPR 3-0 in the Final two years ago.

"I've no idea why we do so well in it and not so well in the League," says Evans. "But the crowd love the competition and get right behind us for every match.

"I just wish we showed the same form in the First Division."



Peter Hucker is one of three top class keepers at Oxford.



Shelton's plastic banker

Caton raiser

**'I can fulfil
my England
dream'**

TELL Oxford skipper Tommy Caton his career has taken a downward lurch in recent years ... and he'll give you four good reasons why you might be mistaken.

Caton says: "I'm enjoying life at Oxford and I'm proud to be one of the youngest captains in the First Division.

"I haven't given up hope of full international honours and my long-term target is to smash Terry Paine's record of 824 League

appearances."

The centre-back, once described by Malcolm Allison as the finest prospect since Duncan Edwards, moved from Manchester City to Arsenal for £400,000 in late 1983.

Only two seasons later, George Graham packed him off to the Manor Ground with his price tag reduced to £160,000.

Despite that, Caton still maintains: "George Graham is the finest manager I have worked under."

And the Liverpool-born stopper has lost none of his cheek or ambition, adding: "Oxford bought me for a snip and if we keep playing our football in Division One there is no reason why I can't revive my international career."

"The England scene has changed dramatically over the last two years.

"There is no reason why it shouldn't change again. I played for England Under-21s for four years and captained the side for two of those, so I'm hardly short of international experience."

Despite his unshakable confidence, Caton confesses: "Oxford United have been all over the place at the back this season because we have had to reorganise due to injuries."

Relegation

Consequently they have slipped into the relegation zone.

But whether Oxford avoid the drop or not the 25-year-old Caton will still have his eye on that long-standing League appearances record.

With close on 300 games to his name he has a long way to go, but the man who began his League career at 17 is not deterred.

"If I can stay clear of serious injury I must have a good chance."

GARY SHELTON is hoping it will be third time lucky in his quest to play at Wembley.

Twice in four years the Sheffield Wednesday side he played for fell in the FA Cup Semi-Finals, in 1983 to Brighton and 1986 to Everton.

Now he is once again just one tie away from the famous Twin Towers as Oxford meet Luton in their second-leg in the Littlewoods Cup Semi-Finals next week.

"It is a definite possibility," says Shelton, "but I'm not counting my chickens yet. Being beaten in the Semis is the worst feeling in the world.

"But I'm not worried about having to play the second-leg on an artificial surface. I find it suits

me and the team as a whole played well at QPR recently, when we were unlucky to lose 3-2."

Shelton arrived at the Manor via Walsall, Aston Villa and Wednesday and he says: "Once I got over the shock of the house prices I feel I've settled in well. It is very different to Wednesday and Villa but I think it was a good move for me.

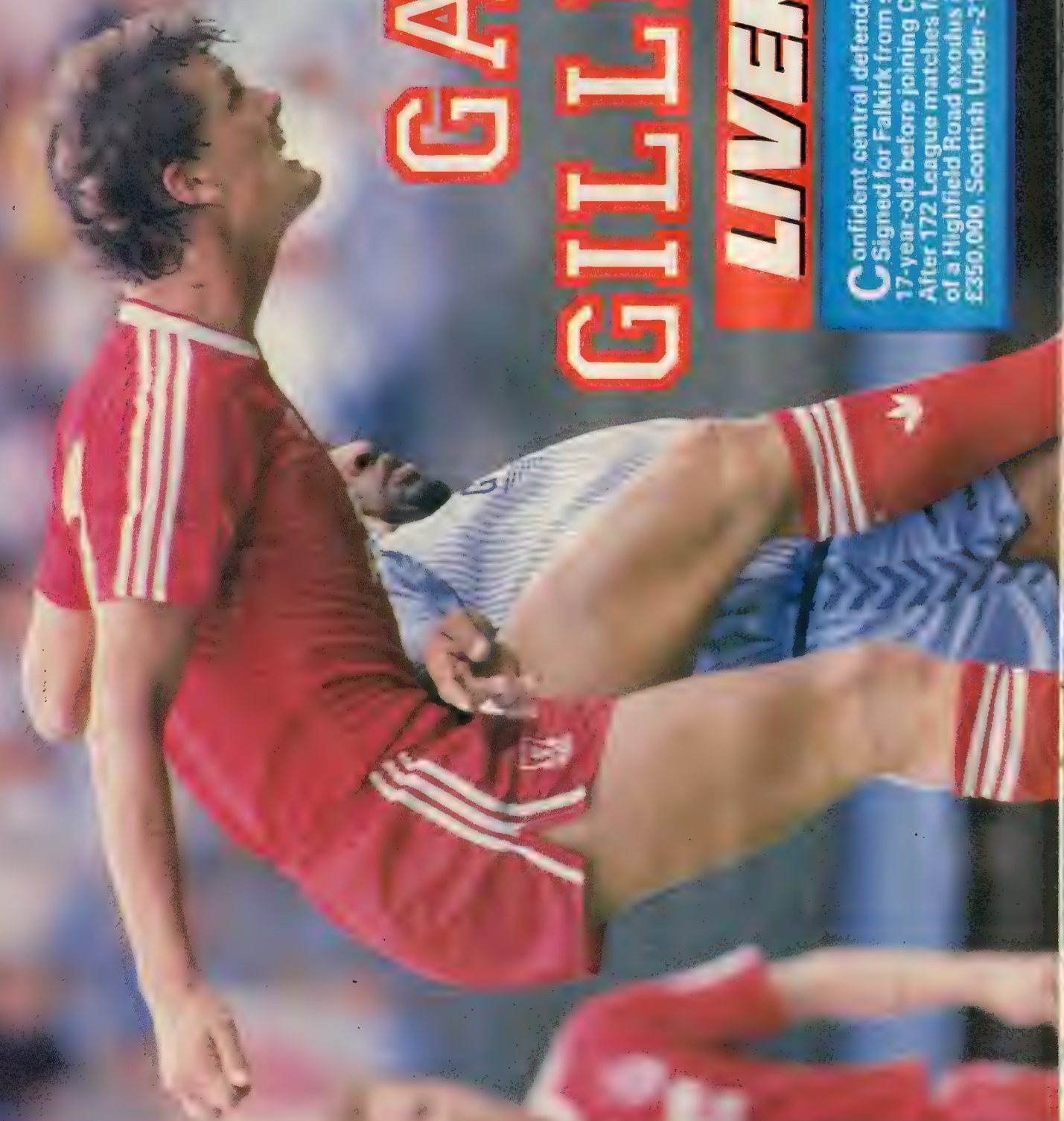
'Hoping'

"People say the Manor Ground's hardly Hillsborough or Villa Park but a ground is just a ground. It is what happens on the pitch that matters – whether grass or plastic."

But Shelton will be hoping that plastic proves third time lucky next week.



On The SPOT



GARY GILLESPIE

LIVERPOOL

Confident central defender born in Stirling on July 5, 1960. Signed for Falkirk from school and skippered the club as a 17-year-old before joining Coventry in a £75,000 deal in 1978. After 172 League matches for the Midlands club he was part of a Highfield Road exodus in 1983, signing for Liverpool for £350,000. Scottish Under-21 and senior international (2 caps).

'When Bob Paisley speaks out about standards people should take note'

Can Liverpool go through the League season unbeaten, and is the feat ever discussed at Anfield? Whether we do it or not remains to be seen, but our confidence is at such a level that we go out believing we can win every game. The unbeaten run is discussed, but never in any serious way. Of course we reckon it would be a fantastic achievement – as would collecting 100 League points and scoring 100 goals. At least it would cut down the gaffer's opportunities to blast us after a game.

Going back to the start of your

career, how did you win the captaincy at your first club, Falkirk, aged 17? I'm not sure, but the fact that manager Billy Little was my English teacher at school and used to live across the road from me might have had something to do with it. It was strange because I only played a total of 22 games for the club, and I don't regard myself as a shouter on the pitch. The older lads took the decision well, and I just looked on it as tossing up a coin before kick-off and picking which way we'd kick.

Who was your hero during your

formative years? Kenny Dalglish. HA HA. When Celtic won the European Cup in 1967 I elected them as the team to support, and when Kenny later got into the side he was worshipped in Scotland. Whenever we used to have a kickaround we'd pretend we were either Pele, Beckenbauer or Cruyff, and I was always Dalglish.

And now? Being a keen golfer I'll pick Seve Ballesteros and Jack Nicklaus, who have worked their way up through the ranks and, more importantly, maintained their

talent. That's the sort of goal every sportsman wants to achieve. Living in Southport I'm a three iron away from Royal Birkdale, and I also enjoy a game at the Hillside club with Alan Hansen and Kevin MacDonald on days off.

Which newspapers do you read, and why? I don't get any papers during the week (the gaffer will say that's because I'm too tight) but I sometimes get the News of the World on a Sunday. Barry Venison and I enjoy having a crack at the Cryptic Crossword, and all the lads were very interested in the recent article about what Charlie Nicholas gets up to in his free time.

How would you describe yourself in a Lonely Hearts column? I'd probably lie – Tall, slim, incredibly good looking ... and generous, contrary to the vicious rumour put round by the gaffer.

Who would you most like to be trapped in a lift with? You're expecting me to name some nubile young thing, but I'd select Billy Connolly. He'd keep me amused for a couple of hours – telling jokes, of course.

You're obviously married, then? To Susan, for the past seven years. We went to the same primary and secondary schools and she obviously got tired of waiting for me to chat her up because it was Susan who started our romance by asking me out to a party. I tell her I never asked her out because she was a late developer. We have two boys, Ryan (5½) and Richard (4), and Susan is expecting twins. We've been told to keep May 7 free, but that's our last First Division game of the season and I want to get my Championship medal.

What sort of pictures do you hang on your walls at home? We've got a couple of prints by a chap named W. Huntingdon of village scenes and the like. Plus a few of the kids. I don't have many pictures of myself, honest.

If (and we mean if) we paid you £1,000 for this article, how would you spend it? I reckon there'd be a fair chance of the wife pressing me into buying her a car. She's been going on at me for ages, but I bought her a piano for Christmas and I don't want to spoil her.

Are you a telly watcher? Definitely. I enjoy answering the questions on A Question of Sport, although I'm not sure how I would react if they actually asked me to appear on the show. Peter Beardsley and John Barnes have been on recently, and didn't do badly, so I'd hate to let the side down. I also enjoy documentaries, although I detested them as a youngster.

Finally, what is your opinion of Bob Paisley's recent comment that the standard of the First Division is the worst he's seen? Bob is no dummy, and if a man of his experience really feels that strongly then maybe some people should sit up and take notice. I don't find it any easier after ten years in the game, and I reckon the First Division is full of good players. But maybe that's a difficult one for me to answer because until the European ban is lifted we won't really know just how strong our teams are. Matches against top European opposition is normally a good pointer. Hopefully we won't have to wait long to find out.

SEND FOR SUTTON

BRIAN CLOUGH is recommending his Nottingham Forest goalkeeper STEVE SUTTON for an England call-up.

Cloughie has not always been so keen about the 26-year-old saver (left) and has sent him out on loan to both Derby and Mansfield in the past.

But now he says: "He has acquired the necessary League experience and is now good enough to be an England understudy. He has come of age."

McCOIST JOKE



Rangers are laughing at reports that they've received an offer of £1.5 million from Italian side Pisa for their goalscoring ace ALLY McCOIST.

"It's pie in the sky," says assistant manager WALTER SMITH. "Anyway, what kind of an offer would that be with the kind of money we've been spending recently?"

IRWIN at

Albion accused

West Bromwich Albion are to defend a High Court writ claiming £50,000 damages following incidents at an hotel during a club trip to Portugal last October.

The writ has been served by the tour organisers for "loss of reputation" but at least one of the Albion players is ready to take his own legal action against the allegations.



LARGE

Metgod move?

West Ham are keeping a close watch on the situation as Spurs prepare for a massive White Hart Lane clear out.

The man Hammers like the look of is Dutch midfielder man JOHNNY METGOD, who has virtually disappeared from the scene since leaving Nottingham Forest.

And expect Manchester City to be first in the queue for OSSIE ARDILES if he is also made available by TERRY VENABLES.

City offered the 35-year-old Argentinian a player-coach's job last summer and are still keen to bring him to Maine Road.



ARSENAL CHASE SPEEDIE

Arsenal boss GEORGE GRAHAM wants to bring Coventry's DAVID SPEEDIE to Highbury as the next stage of his team rebuilding programme.

The abrasive Scotsman (left) has failed to justify his £750,000 price tag at Highbury and is unhappy at being relegated to the subs' bench by Sky Blues manager JOHN SILLETT.

Graham was linked with the 27-year-old striker before his summer transfer from Chelsea and he still believes he is the man to bring the goals out of his £850,000 signing ALAN SMITH.

Coventry would be happy to get £500,000 of their money back, although Sillett could try to get Arsenal's Republic of Ireland international NIAL QUINN in part exchange.

● Manchester City, looking for a new goalkeeper after selling PERRY SUCKLING to Crystal Palace, are set to bid for Everton reserve MIKE STOWELL, currently on loan at Maine Road.

● Wolves' Fourth Division Championship prospects have been hit by the loss of influential defender STEVE STOUTT for the next two months following a cartilage operation.

Donaghy wrecks Wilson curse

With a trip to QPR for Saturday's FA Cup Fifth Round followed by the second-leg of their Littlewoods Cup Semi-Final against Oxford on Wednesday, this is make or break week for Luton's Wembley dreams.

And defender MAL DONAGHY (below) is convinced his team are going to come up trumps.

"We just don't feel we're ever going to lose," he admits. "I was a bit worried when BOB WILSON tipped us for the Cup on TV, but we're still going strong in spite of that."

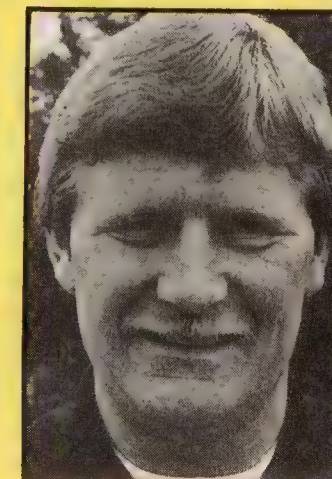
"We've qualified for the Mercantile Centenary Festival and we're still in the Simod Cup, so I'll be very disappointed if we don't get to Wembley this season."

Northern Ireland boss BILLY BINGHAM is set to create soccer history by selecting the first father and son combination at international level.

Twenty years ago Bingham called up Sheffield Wednesday defender SAMMY TODD. Now Sammy's son MARK, a midfielder for Sheffield United, has been included in a recent squad get-together and is expected to figure in Bingham's World Cup qualifying plans.

● Manchester United have emerged as favourites to sign the 17-year-old Norwegian boy wonder CLAUSE EFTVAAG from his club Kristiansand. The teenage striker is being chased by a number of leading European clubs but is thought to favour a move to Old Trafford.

JOHNN STALKER, the former deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester whose revelations about police policies in Northern Ireland are a current source of embarrassment to the Government, has landed an unusual new job. He has been appointed a part-time consultant by Millwall.



● Newcastle boss WILLIE McFAUL (left) is considering a bid for Linfield goalkeeper TOMMY WRIGHT, who is currently in the middle of a month's loan at St. James' Park. McFaul, remember, also kept goal for Linfield and for Newcastle in his time.



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Laughlines

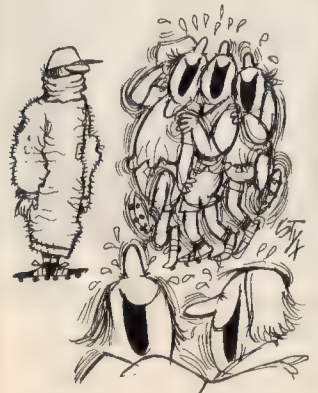
"I gave him the money to buy a new England strip and he's come back with a little referee's kit."



"It's that eager enthusiastic young apprentice of yours - wants you to join him in an early morning workout."



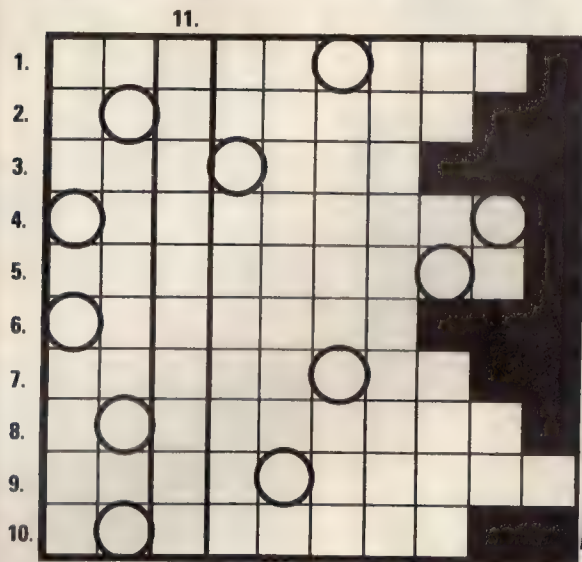
"Remember telling me to keep my eyes open for a young prospect with a football brain?"



"Oh, gawd! The auntie of the poor man's Peter Shilton has knitted him a nice warm woolly."

Find the Star

Place the answers to the eleven clues in the corresponding places in the square below (1 to 10 Across & 11 Down). When this is all completed the letters in the circled squares can be unjumbled to give the name of an Everton striker. (6 & 5).

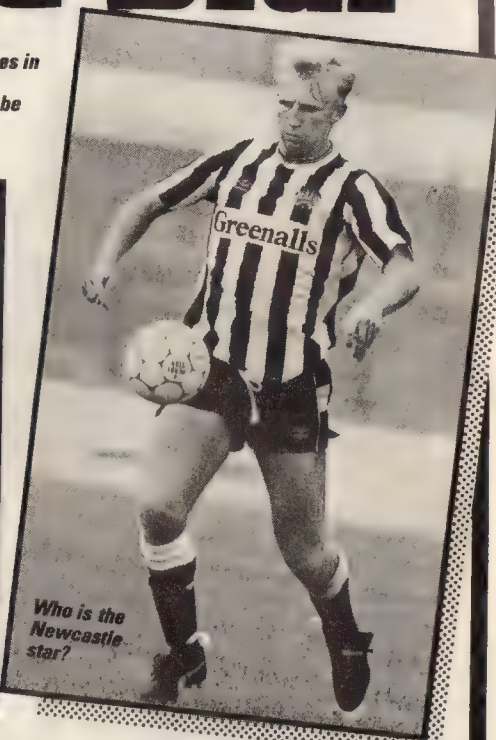


(1) Paul - Newcastle United midfielder. (9)
(2) Chelsea winger. (3 & 5)
(3) Dean - Coventry City player. (7)
(4) Peter - Manchester United striker. (9)

(5) Coventry City full-back. (4 & 5)
(6) Trevor - Oxford United midfielder. (7)
(7) John - Newcastle United defender. (8)
(8) Spurs midfielder. (4 & 5)

(9) Kevin - Arsenal midfielder. (10)
(10) Steve - 1984 FA Cup Final goalkeeper. (8)
(11) Old Trafford defender. (5 & 5)

Answers on page 33



SNAPSHOTS

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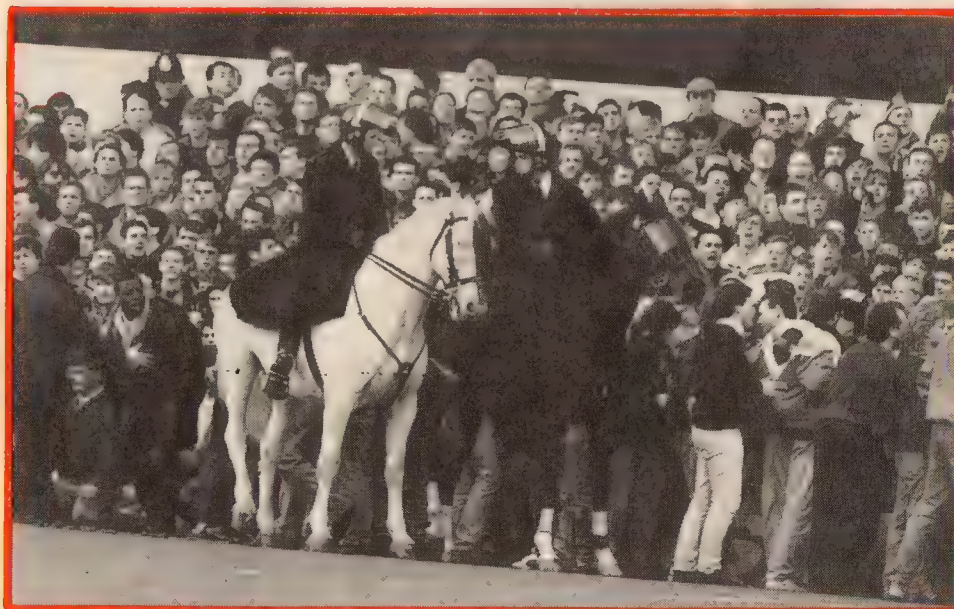


Nothing's changed for Charlie - he's missed again.



Brian Clough discovers one of the drawbacks of fielding such a young side ... if their bootlaces come undone they wait until half-time and ask the boss to do them up again.

"John Fashanu? And I suppose you want us to play Holland at Plough Lane."



Question: Which does Mark Dennis use more often - Alan McDonald's jacket or a season ticket from Shepherd's Bush to Lancaster Gate?

"Ere Sarge, wasn't your brother selling QPR v West Ham tickets on the cheap?"

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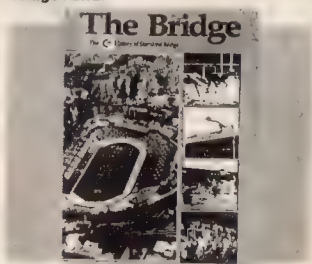
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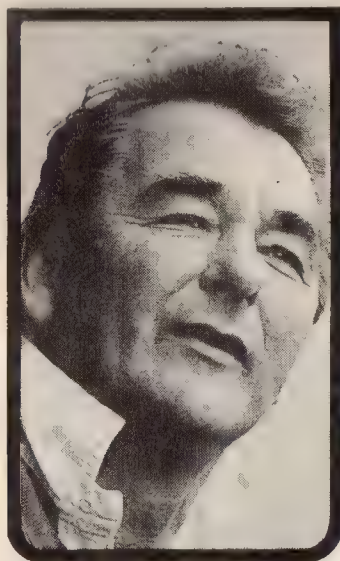
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CLOUGHIE

SPEAKING HIS MIND



HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS

I read with interest SHOOT's recent article about player discipline. My view is that we should hit 'em where it hurts...it's the only lasting solution to clean up the game.

And I don't for one stupid minute advocate that we start matching fire with fire and leaving football as one horrible free for all.

But I would argue a case – and a very strong one at that – for laying down a code of discipline that would sort out the bad boys once and for all.

Formula

There is a need for everyone to get together – the League, the FA, the individual clubs and the PFA (after all it's their members who are causing all the problems) and thrash out a formula.

And I would like to see that formula be drastic enough to make everyone come into line.

I would personally have no hesitation in imposing something in the region of a £5,000 fine on the club who has a player sent-off. If the same player is dismissed a second time, I would double it...and so on.

At the same time I would recommend that suspensions were longer and I would also make sure that the player concerned had his wages docked for the duration of his ban.

We've got to come up with a punishment harsh enough to prevent a repeat of the appalling disciplinary record that our footballers are chalking up this season.

Let's consider a hypothetical case and use someone like Peter Shilton as an example because his record of behaviour is so exemplary, it would never happen to him.

If he was sent-off and suspended for a lengthy time and his club were fined severely, then it would hit Derby County very hard to be without their England goalkeeper.

If he had cause to be shown the red card again and had his suspension doubled and the club's fine doubled, I think the time would come for Robert Maxwell to turn to Arthur Cox and ask: "What's going on here?"

I'll repeat, it wouldn't happen to Shilton but there are players in this country who would be costing their clubs fortunes, getting themselves suspended for an eternity and having to go without money for a very long time.

That's what I call hitting people where it hurts and if, like me, you want to see football's act cleaned up in 1988, something of a radical nature has to happen.

We've still got the best football in the world by miles and we don't want a bad disciplinary record tainting it.

Benefits

If somebody could tell me what benefits can be derived from getting into trouble with referees, then I might be persuaded to listen.

I've been in the game a long time and have yet to discover any hint of gain from bad tackling, dissent or any of the other misdemeanours players get up to.

It's my experience that the vast majority of footballers who get into

Players involved in trouble on the field should be suspended for a lengthy period and the club fined heavily.

trouble are doing so because of some inadequacy on their part.

Whether it be from their inability to get the ball by fair means from the opposition or lack of character in accepting a decision, the answer lies at the individual's feet.

I know there is more stress and more physical commitment in the game than there ever was – and as standards of fitness improve it will get even tougher – but there's no merit in falling foul of the law.

It's tempting fate, I know, but we pride ourselves at Nottingham Forest in having a reasonably good record of behaviour. We are not angels but there is no place for angels in a highly-charged physical sport.

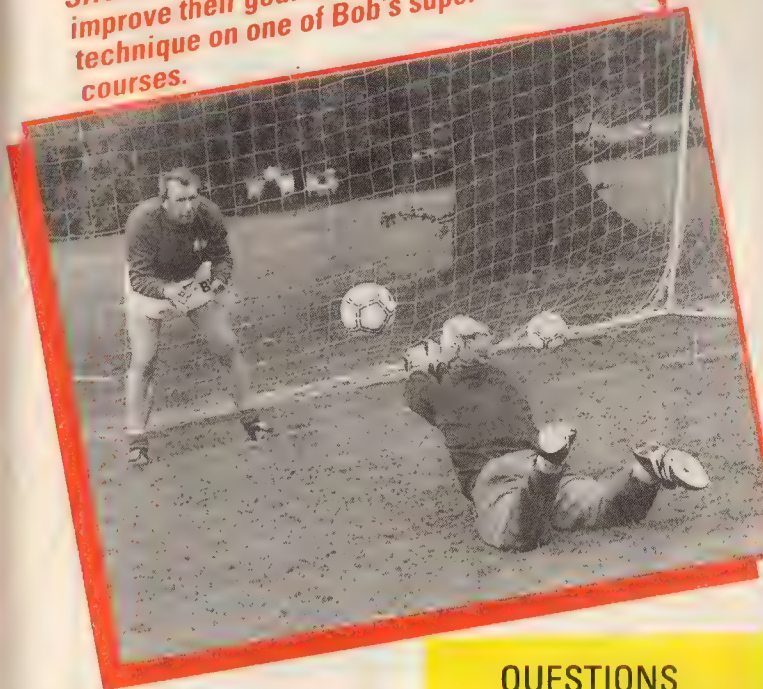
I've always cracked down on players who do step out of line but 'I'll tell you this...it's more for their good than mine.

You are no good to anyone when you are suspended.

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Barclays Bank, sponsors of the Football League and Bob Wilson's Goalkeeping School, are offering six SHOOT readers the chance to improve their goalkeeping skills and technique on one of Bob's super courses.

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Send your entry to SHOOT/BOB WILSON COMPETITION, SHOOT Magazine, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1NG, to arrive no later than Monday, 7th March, 1988.

QUESTIONS

1 Who is the only England 'keeper to have won a World Cup winner's medal?

2 Which British 'keeper holds the record number of international appearances and how many caps did he gain?

3 Who was in goal for Argentina in the 1986 World Cup Final?

● If you'd like a brochure or application form write to: Bob Wilson's Goalkeeping School, Station House, Darks Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 1AL.
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AFTER 20 months of inactivity and more than two years of pain and frustration, Paul Bracewell has finally won his fight for soccer survival.

Now the 25-year-old England international must prove he can still produce the form required to hold down a regular place in the Everton team.

He is under no illusions. During his enforced absence Everton have signed Ian Snodin, Ian Wilson, Neil Adams and Paul Power. Competition for a midfield role has never been fiercer.

Yet even the £840,000 arrival of Snodin at a time when Bracewell seemed to have lost his fitness battle didn't panic the sidelined star.

"I knew Ian was being signed to wear my shirt, but I had to be

in Mexico.

"It was probably a blessing in disguise because I couldn't have done myself justice and I'd have hated to have let my country down. But I didn't think that at the time.

"Now playing for England again is just a dream. I have to prove my ankle will stand up to the demands of the First Division."

Four operations on the injury failed to cure the problem and it looked as though Bracewell's career was over.

"I had to face up to the fact that I might never play again. It was so frustrating, because the doctors kept telling me I was OK and I knew I wasn't."

Then a specialist in London recommended a trip to San Francisco and a consultation with Dr. Roger Mann, an ankle specialist regarded as the finest

All's well for Bracewell

But now Everton's brave midfielder faces another battle

realistic," recalls Bracewell. "Everton are a big club and I couldn't expect them to grind to a halt just because I was injured.

"Now I've proved my fitness and it's up to me to battle for my place."

Bracewell's problems began at Newcastle on New Year's Day, 1986. He didn't know it at the time, but the ankle injury he picked up that day almost finished his career.

"I struggled on for the rest of the season, but it just got worse and worse.

"I was way below my best form and it cost me my place in the England squad for the World Cup

in the world.

"It was the last roll of the dice," says Bracewell. "It cost the club a lot of money to send me, but they're insured and now that I'm able to play again it's saved them

the cost of buying a replacement."

To Bracewell's relief, Mann discovered a flake of bone which had splintered off in the challenge at Newcastle and had remained undetected until that day.



Ian Wilson (far left) and Ian Snodin were both brought in to strengthen the Everton midfield during Bracewell's absence.

The operation was a success. Bracewell returned to England with the splinter in a jar as a permanent reminder of his agony and is now picking up the pieces of his shattered career.

"Due to other injuries, I'm back in the first team squad a little earlier than I'd have liked. But after all I've been through, I'm certainly not complaining.

"It was a brilliant feeling when I came on as a sub in our 5-0 FA Cup win at Sheffield Wednesday. The crowd gave me a fantastic cheer, and I'd like to thank everyone for their letters and good wishes during my injury.

"I know the rest of the lads are starting to feel the pace after so many Cup-ties in recent weeks, but the more games we play between now and the end of the season, the better as far as I'm concerned."

FIND THE STAR ANSWERS

(1) Gascoigne, (2) Pat Nevin, (3) Emerson, (4) Davenport, (5) Greg Downs, (6) Hebbard, (7) Cornwell, (8) Paul Allen, (9) Richardson, (10) Sherwood, (11) Steve Bruce, Jumbled Name: ADRIAN HEATH.

I'LL END THIS ARSENAL AGONY

ALAN Smith, the latest victim of the Highbury goals hoodoo, has promised Gunners fans that he will score the goals they crave.

Smith, at £800,000 George Graham's most expensive buy, has hit just seven goals in 26 League matches for Arsenal and is already being branded as the latest in a long line of Gunners forward flops.

Only once in the last decade has an Arsenal striker scored 20 goals in a season, and that was Tony Woodcock in 1983-84. Martin Hayes came close with 19 last season - but nine of them were penalties.

Expectations

A succession of big money strikers have failed to live up to expectations. Charlie Nicholas, Lee Chapman, Paul Mariner and Alan Sunderland have all come and gone without reproducing the strike rate they managed elsewhere.

But Smith says: "I don't think there is anything to be read into the club's lack of a consistent goalscorer."

"The spell I'm having is just something strikers go through, though it's the worst I've had. If I could put my finger on the reasons why maybe I could do something about it."

"But I'm not just waiting for the goals to start flowing again. I'm reasonably happy with my overall play and I'm making a contribution in other areas of the pitch."

"There haven't been many chances recently but that could be because I'm not taking up the right positions."

Changes

Since joining Arsenal in the summer, though the deal was agreed last March, Smith has partnered Charlie Nicholas, Perry Groves, Niall Quinn and Paul Merson in attack.

Not that he is putting forward the constant changes as an excuse. "It happens at all clubs," he says. "You just have to change your game slightly and adapt to the pattern of play."

Despite their problems in front of goal, Arsenal are through to the Littlewoods Cup Semi-Finals and the FA Cup Fifth Round.

"Once in the Semis, you have to fancy your chances," says the 25-year-old. "But in playing Everton we've got the toughest

draw we could have had, and United won't be any easier in the FA Cup."

It will not have escaped Smith's notice that Charlie Nicholas, for all his problems at Arsenal, was the two-goal matchwinner when Arsenal won the Littlewoods Cup last season.

Wembley would be a nice place for Smith to rediscover his goal touch but the former non-League international doesn't

intend waiting until then.

"The fans have been great to me and I want to repay their faith, but I'm not in a position to set a target. My main aim is to get a run of goals together."

Smith, who has moved into a house near Arsenal's Hertfordshire training ground, is aware that Graham intends to move back into the transfer market but he says: "I know I can score goals, and I intend to prove it."

VOWS
Alan Smith

THE Highbury Hoodoo

Season	Top Scorer	Lge Goals	Arsenal's Lge Pos.
1977-78	Malcolm Macdonald	15	5th
1978-79	Frank Stapleton	17	7th
1979-80	Frank Stapleton	14	4th
1980-81	Alan Sunderland	14	3rd
1981-82	Frank Stapleton	14	5th
1982-83	Alan Sunderland	11	10th
1983-84	Tony Woodcock	21	6th
1984-85	Tony Woodcock	10	7th
	Ian Allinson	10	
1985-86	Brian Talbot	10	
1986-87	Tony Woodcock	10	
1987-88	Martin Hayes	11	
	Alan Smith	19	4th
		7	5th (After 26 games)



SMITH'S GOALFILE

Born: 21.11.62, Birmingham
Ht: 6' 2½" Wt: 12st 10lbs.
Joined Leicester City from non-League Alvechurch for £22,000.
Season Lge Games Lge Goals Leicester's Lge Pos.

1982-83	39	13	3rd Division One
1983-84	40	15	15th Division One
1984-85	39	12	15th Division One
1985-86	40	19	19th Division One
1986-87	42	17	20th Division One (relegated)
1987-88	26	7	Up to February 12

Joined Arsenal for £800,000.

JOSIMAR

FORGET SPAIN – COME TO BRITAIN



A BEVY of brilliant Brazilians are set to follow the lead of international striker Mirandinha and burst onto the British scene this summer.

Following Dundee United's bold £400,000 bid for international defender Josimar, Mirandinha is predicting a massive influx of superstars.

"I'm sure I will prove to be the first of many Brazilians to come to Britain," says the Newcastle star.

"In addition to my former Botafogo team-mate Josimar, I know of a number of other internationals who are interested in playing for English or Scottish clubs.

"Goalkeeper Carlos is one, although I think he would find life more difficult than me in a country renowned for its goalkeeping talent. Nelsinho is another player considering a future in Europe, and one man I would tip to make a

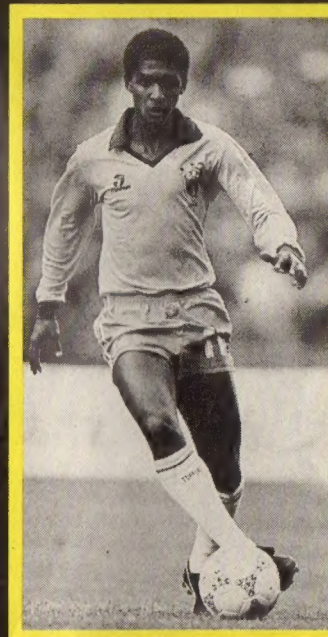
great impact is Valdo.

"He is an attacking midfielder-cum-winger who the fans over here would love.

"Latin countries such as Spain, Italy and Portugal have traditionally been more suited to Brazilian players – and Dundee United could be beaten to the punch by Seville for Josimar – but I'd like to think I have shown England to be a more viable alternative.

"I'm proud to be the first Brazilian to play in this country.

"Having been relatively successful so far at Newcastle I'm



Attacking midfielder Valdo could be the next Brazilian heading Britain's way.

sure it will encourage others to join me over here. From my own experience I can assure them it's easier to adapt than they imagine.

"We are used to a slower build-up in Brazil, but the faster-moving English game means I get more possession and, therefore, more opportunities to show the flair most Brazilians possess.

Change

"The weather is no real problem, but the pitches are obviously heavier at this time of year and ploughing through mud in studded boots rather than playing on solid ground in rubbers represents quite a change. But it's something you get used to."

As for his international team-

'He'd be a smash over here'
SAYS MIRANDINHA

mate Josimar, Mirandinha is convinced he would be a success and adds: "It wouldn't take him long to establish himself as the best right-back in Britain.

"Everyone knows how strong he is going forward and we all remember the great goals he scored in Mexico. But he's also a very solid defender.

"Equally importantly, he has the character to succeed in a foreign

country. He's a real extrovert who would be a popular figure in the dressing-room once he's learned the language. He's a big joker.

"I was surprised that the club he looked like joining was Dundee United. If he was going to go to Scotland I would have thought he would choose Rangers or Celtic. I never believed the move was as cut and dried as people made out."

McMISERY FOR McLEAN



David Narey's goal for Scotland against Brazil in 1982 alerted the South American country to the name of Dundee United.

JIM McLean's failure to lure Josimar to Scotland – for the time being at least – adds yet another chapter to Dundee United's catalogue of disappointments on the transfer front.

The Tannadice boss has the proceeds of last season's great UEFA Cup run at his disposal and he looked set to invest £400,000 of it in the brilliant Brazilian.

But Josimar's decision to join Spanish club Seville until the end of the season – with the option of a permanent move – has shattered his plans.

"I've lost out on many transfer deals in the past, but the failure to land Josimar has been the greatest let down of all," says McLean.

"From the moment the Brazilians let our intentions be known the dice was loaded against us. I would have been much happier if they had let negotiations run their full course before saying anything.

"Had they done so I reckon we might have managed to pull off the signing scoop of the season. But Botafogo's announcement served only to alert the rest of the world of the player's availability.

"In the end I wasn't too surprised when another club began to show interest. After all Josimar is one of the best defenders in the world and the sort of personality who will be a big draw wherever he plays."

The prospect of seeing the Brazilian in action for Dundee

United had set the samba drums beating on the Tannadice terraces – but alarm bells ringing in McLean's office.

As the negotiations dragged on he began to have his doubts and his worst fears were confirmed when Josimar opted for a loan move to Spain's Seville.

"I had a feeling that, if a big club came in with funny money, we would find it hard to compete," says McLean.

Surprised

The fact Josimar had shown an initial interest in joining Dundee United surprised soccer fans throughout Britain, but as he reveals the Scottish club is held in high esteem in Brazil.

Our game is followed closely in South America and the impact United have made on UEFA competitions hasn't gone unnoticed.

Through his interpreter Josimar told us: "Everyone in Brazil knows

about Dundee United's great wins over Barcelona and Borussia Moenchengladbach last season.

"And a few years ago I remember they came very close to beating Roma – who had Falcao and Cerezo in their team – in the Semi-Finals of the European Cup. And nobody has forgotten David Narey scoring that great goal for Scotland against Brazil in the World Cup in Spain.

"I feel the time is right for me to come to Europe and I was very close to signing for Dundee United. The change will help me prepare for the next World Cup Finals in Italy.

"I have played in Brazil for seven years now with Bangu, Flamengo and Botafogo and football has given me and my family a great life but I'm sure I made the right decision in coming to Europe.

"I am looking forward to the new challenge of playing in a different country and feel confident I will be a success."

Scottish
Cup
Special



TANGERINE DREAM

STILL
TIME

FOR TRIUMPH
AT UNITED

No club is more anxious to hit the Scottish Cup jackpot than Dundee United.

With the collapse of their Championship dream following an alarming form slump, the Tannadice men underlined their burning Cup ambition with the Third Round's biggest victory.

Their 7-0 romp at Arbroath – a post-War Cup record – was their first appearance in the competition since a disappointing display in last season's Final when they lost 1-0 to St. Mirren.

Flying Finn Miksu Paatelainen has since joined The Tangerines and after marking his Cup debut with a goal at Gayfield the big striker declares: "This was just what we needed."

"We've been annoyed with our League form but success in the Scottish Cup would still make it a good season for the club."

Midfield ace Ian Redford adds: "Our injury problems are clearing up and we've salvaged pride and belief in ourselves from a decent run of results."

"Confidence is a key factor in football and we all believe it's possible to end what has been a very disappointing season so far on a high note."

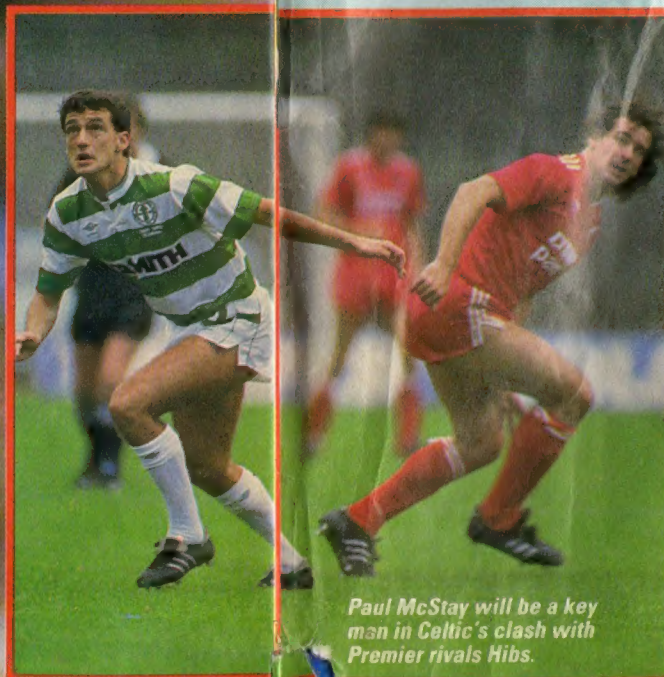
United, who have never won the Scottish Cup despite four Final outings in the last 14 years, know Fourth Round opponents Airdrie, managed by former Scotland defender Gordon McQueen, will be tough.

Classic

It's a classic David against Goliath confrontation that is repeated elsewhere as Aberdeen, winners four times since 1982, travel to take on First Division pacesetters Hamilton Accies.

Dons' boss Ian Porterfield was relieved to see Robert Connor squeeze the only goal of a Third Round tie at St. Johnstone with just six minutes remaining.

"That was too close for comfort," he sighed at the end and the knowledgeable Pittodrie manager knows Hamilton could



Paul McStay will be a key man in Celtic's clash with Premier rivals Hibs.

PORTERFIELD BLUE

ANOTHER TOUGH TEST FOR CUP KINGS

prove an even tougher obstacle.

Accies dumped Rangers out of the Cup last season at Ibrox and John Lambie's team fancy their chances of claiming another famous scalp at their trim Douglas Park headquarters.

Their shock 3-0 defeat of holders St. Mirren is the perfect confidence booster for Clydebank as they prepare for Fourth Round action.

Rapidly improving East Stirling will not be overawed by a visit from Clyde as they seek to become the Second Division's sole representatives in the Quarter-Finals.

But by far the biggest crowd of the day will jam into Parkhead

Aberdeen boss Ian Porterfield will be wary of another Hamilton Scottish Cup upset.

where Celtic, following a slender 1-0 victory over the lowly part-timers of Stranraer in the last stage, entertain Hibs.

Celtic's embarrassing struggle, highlighted by a Pat Bonner penalty save, left manager Billy McNeill fuming and he'll demand a huge improvement against a Hibs side who needed a replay to overcome Dumbarton.

Disposed

Dundee and Motherwell meet in what promises to be a ding-dong affair at Dens Park, having disposed of Brechin and Kilmarnock.

Two more all-Premier battles sees bottom club Morton travel to high-flying Hearts and Dunfermline play hosts to Cup favourites Rangers.

Ibrox boss Graeme Souness, desperate to put last season's Hamilton nightmare behind him with a first-ever Scottish Cup success, will pay no attention to an earlier 4-0 League win at East End Park.

He knows better than anyone that anything can happen in the Cup!

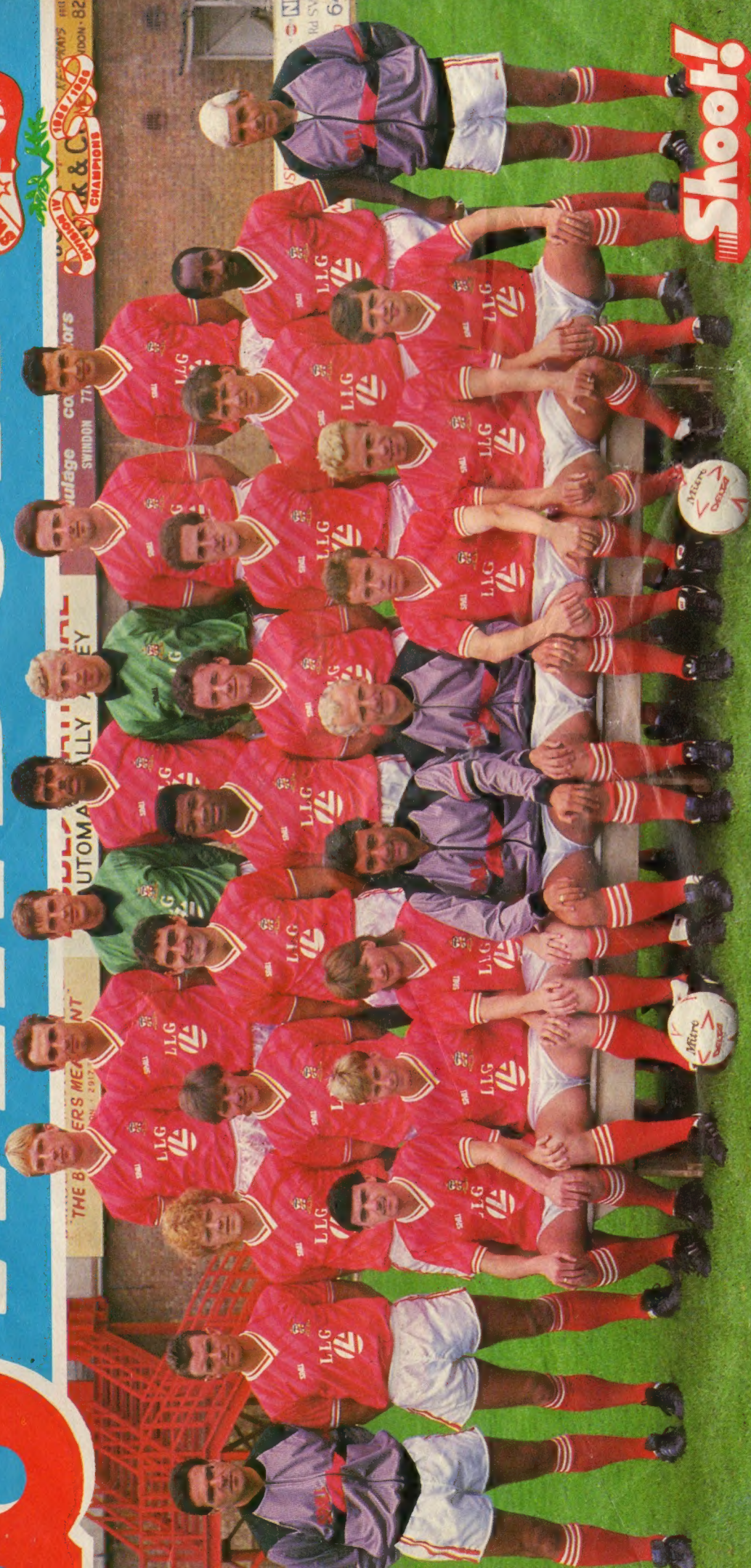
Can you beat our columnists?

SCOTTISH CUP FOURTH ROUND	AITKEN	BUTCHER	NICHOLAS	SHOOT	READER
Hamilton v Aberdeen	2	2	2	2	
Celtic v Hibs	1	1	1	1	
Dunfermline v Raith/Rangers	2	2	2	2	
Airdrie v Dundee United	2	X	2	2	
Hearts v Morton	1	1	1	1	
East Stirling v Clyde	2	2	X	X	
Clydebank v Forfar/Partick	1	1	1	1	
Dundee v Motherwell	1	1	1	1	

1 – home win; 2 – away win; X – draw

Ian Redford is confident that Dundee United can salvage their season with Cup success.

SWINDON



Shoot!

BACK ROW (left to right): Tim Parkin, Jimmy Quinn, Fraser Digby, Chris Kamara, Nicky Hammond, Charlie Henry, Colin Calderwood.

MIDDLE ROW: Andy Rowland (coach), Dave Hockaday, Phil King, Terry Merriman, Dave Bamber, John Gittens, John Kelly (now Oldham), Steve White, Steve Foley, Chris Ramsey (now Southend), Kevin Morris (physio).

FRONT ROW: Andy McLaughlin, Bryan Wade, Peter Coyne, Lou Macari (manager), John Trollope (asst. manager), Steve Berry (now Aldershot), Leigh Barnard, Mark Jones.